

JPRS 75118

12 February 1980

USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

No. 1495



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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MOTORIZED RIFLE UNITS: TRAINING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Air Support Measures

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Aug 79 p 1

[Article by Colonel V Filippov: "Support From the Sky"]

[Text] Pursuing the retreating "enemy," the motorized rifle battalion quickly broke through to the river. It was not a large, turbulent river; but it was all the same a serious enough obstacle in the path of the attackers. But now if you are slow here with your crossing, the "enemy" may be able to bring up fresh forces; and the success of the offensive may become subject to serious doubt.

But no hitches developed. Fliers came to the assistance of the motorized rifle troops. They had been assigned flight missions for that day connected with crew preparation and training for their squadron tactical air exercise. The senior officer had taken care to insure that cooperation with aviation was organized as part of the tactical motorized rifle battalion exercise. Aviation and combined-arms commanders and their chiefs of staff had held comprehensive prior discussions concerning the joint subunit (podrazdeleniye) operations to be executed in the training area. Matters connected with the planned cooperation were clearly and precisely worked out and coordinated with reference to times, lines and objectives.

So now, while the motorized rifle troops fight their battle to seize and occupy a bridgehead on the opposite bank of the river and construction operations in preparation for the crossing are being completed, the first pair of fighter-bombers appear over the battlefield.

...Soviet front-line fighters fearlessly and heroically battled fascists here during the Great Patriotic War. Among them was the soldier Vasiliy Mel'nikov. His son, Senior Lt Vladimir Mel'nikov, communist and combat pilot 2d class, is now a member of the group led by combat pilot 1st class Lt Col Yuriy Frolov. Their fighter-bombers are supporting the motorized rifle subunit's assault river crossing with accurate combined bombing and strafing attacks.

So here they are approaching in pairs at low altitude the point where the river crossing is about to be executed. At the previous evening's party meeting, at which was discussed the communists' tasks in connection with upcoming exercise, Yuriy Aleksandrovich Frolov declared that he himself as well as his men would be putting forth all their energies, all their efforts to insure their skilled and effective performance and that their fighter-bomber attack would be in keeping with those carried out here 35 years ago against fascist invaders by fearless Soviet ground-attack aircraft pilots.

The aviation over the battlefield on this particular day was operating in three echelons. In the lowest echelon, nearest the ground itself and above the motorized rifle battle formations, were the fire-support helicopters. Above these in the second echelon were the fighter-bombers. Fighters occupied the third, the highest, echelon. There were air battles there at those stratospheric altitudes as well. The interweavings of the inversion spirals, which resembled stretched white springs, eloquently testified to the skilled maneuvering of the missile-carrying fighter aircraft.

Conditions were difficult for everyone. At all echelons. But perhaps the helicopter pilots had the hottest time of it. Leading one of the fire-support helicopter groups was communist and combat pilot 1st class Lt Col V. Pshenichnyy. Viktor Arkhipovich accomplished his flight mission with an outstanding rating. But all the other crew commanders performed equally well. Flying in the same formation with V. Pshenichnyy was the aircraft piloted by the communist Senior Lt A. Rakovitse. The crew operator in this instance was Lt A. Khramov, the flight technician Senior Lt of Technical Services V. Akushkin. The commander and flight technician are new communists, the operator a Komsomol member. A young crew. And it is also a youthful crew as far as its professional training is concerned. Rakovitse is just now preparing for only his 2d class examinations, Khramov for his 3d class and Akushkin for his 2d class examinations. But the crew nevertheless performs with diligence, enthusiasm and efficiency.

Also demonstrating skilled combat operational performance are the crews led by the combat pilot 1st class and communist Major Yuriy Robul. This young commander serves in the squadron whose personnel took on the obligation to achieve an "outstanding" rating by the end of the training year. The flyers are fulfilling their obligation in creditable fashion. Almost all the crew commanders are now prepared to take their examinations for the next class.

The accurate strikes made by the helicopter pilots against the ground targets indicated by the combined-arms commander affirmed in convincing fashion their readiness for serious testing.

The fighters patrolled in the highest echelon. Combat pilot 1st class communist Major V. Alkhimov and his wingman skillfully executed their missions of providing cover for the motorized rifle subunits against the "enemy" in the air; they battled his fighters with boldness and determination.

Seeing with what effectiveness all three fire echelons of courage in flight, skill and professional training executed their missions over the battlefield, the motorized rifle troops strove with all the greater effort to accomplish their own missions. They were able to negotiate their water obstacle in record-breaking time. They were soon carrying on the battle in the depth of the "enemy" defense.

The senior commander attending the exercise rated highly the tactical maturity demonstrated by the commanders, the ground subunit personnel and the combat aviators and took special note of the efficiently organized cooperation between them. He emphasized that these exercises are especially valuable and that the experience and knowledge acquired during the course of these exercises will provide a good basis for further development and improvement in levels of combat training of both motorized-rifle and flight personnel.

Company-Level Training Successes

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Aug 79 p 2

[Article by Col V. Denisov, Group of Soviet Forces Germany: "It Begins in the Company"]

[Text] On one of the days at the firing range, one could have observed a group of senior officers, representatives of the formation (soyedineniye) staff and political section. Lt Cols V. Nikityuk and M. Stepanyuk, Majors A. Semin and Tomnikov and others were attentively observing the course of the exercise under way involving the motorized rifle company commanded by Senior Lt A. Durnayev. They did not interfere here in the activities of the instructors and their trainees, but simply took notes on all that was taking place and only occasionally elaborated with a few details. In order to understand the significance of this visit, we have to go back a bit, to the past training year.

On the basis of its final rating among the formation's companies and equivalent subunits (podrazdeleniye), the outstanding motorized rifle company commanded by Senior Lt V. Bashkov was designated the leading unit. There was much to be learned here--skilled organization of the training and indoctrination process and socialist competition and a striving to achieve model internal unit procedures and routine. Personnel displayed a gratifying enthusiasm and interest in achieving ever higher levels of success in combat and political training.

What were the factors of this company's success? Bashkov organized his work with his NCOs in the proper manner. There was no field exercise, for example, when he would not hold a detailed and comprehensive critique with his squad leaders, the exercise leaders at the various individual "points." They introduced into their practice here the use of an active manner of providing incentive to their leading methods specialists--they initiated the practice of placing their photographs on special display boards in their Lenin corner. No little else instructive could be found in other spheres of company life as well.

The experience accumulated by competition leaders also caught the attention of the formation staff and political section. Specially designated officers made a thorough study of Bashkov's operational style and familiarized themselves with the activities of the party and Komsomol organizations. Advanced experience accumulated here was given widespread publicity in generalized form. This was accomplished on the occasions of an assembly on training methods held for all company commanders, at a meeting of the formation's party aktiv, official staff conferences and officers' meetings. There was a profound conviction that this company's achievements had become an example attracting the interest and enthusiasm of other military units. Then in the winter, when several other units "passed" the leading company (although it itself had not simply marked time), we viewed this as in the very nature of things, as something entirely to be anticipated. Proving to be among those achieving notable progress was the subunit commanded by Senior Lt Durnayev, a company, we might add, incidentally, from a neighboring regiment. Displaying great interest and enthusiasm, and taking "local conditions" into consideration, this unit's personnel had incorporated into their own practice the experience accumulated by their comrades-in-arms and with assuredness had taken over first place in the formation.

People began to have a look at this subunit's practice with reference to its training and political indoctrination activities--this is why the officers from the formation command mentioned above were to be found at the firing range--and found there, too, much to be disseminated to advantage among other military units. Worthy of attention here, for example, was the organization of instruction within groups specially devoted to the study of weapons fire and technical and related matters. Extensively utilized here are training films, the titles of some of which speak for themselves--"Preparing BTRs [armored personnel carriers] for the Negotiation of a Water Obstacle," "Firing at Moving Targets".... It may be that Durnayev outdid Bashkov in building up his training materials and equipment base as well. The company commander himself made up a model of the firing range which can fit on a table. Here he can create the greatest variety of possible training target layouts for situations which his submachine gunners, machine gunners, grenade launcher operators and PTURS [antitank guided missile] gunner-operators may encounter in combat. This makes possible more effective instruction of personnel in matters relating to weapons firing. The miniature target range created by Sgt S. Mazhirnyy is another contribution toward achieving the same goal. The actively functioning creative thought of the innovative personnel here has, in a word, made it possible to improve the quality of the training process and its final results in the basic areas comprising the training program.

A division is a large, complex military organism. Many factors determine its success in combat and political training and in progressing toward becoming a leading formation. And right up toward the top of the list I would put the organizational efforts of staff and political section personnel to insure the transformation of the company into a center of training and political indoctrination activities. No matter how great the scale of division-level achievements, any success achieved there stems from success achieved within the company and the battery.

The decree of the CPSU Central Committee on "Further Improvement in Ideological and Political Indoctrination Work" poses the task of insuring the achievement of a high level of ideological indoctrination work in all units; of creating an atmosphere of principledness, comradely exactingness and attentiveness to each human being and of finding the path by which to reach his mind and heart. It is entirely clear that the accomplishment of this task is for us inseparably linked with the task of enhancing the company's role as a center of training and indoctrination activities.

What occurs within the company is not simply the development of the unit's ability to function as a well-coordinated military team. Here we also observe the development of troop morale. Here is laid the solid foundation for skilled battalion and regimental battlefield performance. Why, we might ask, are the battalions commanded by Lt Col D. Agayev and Major N. Tikhomirov thought to be the best in the formation? Yes, because they are strong at the company level. Why does the Chertkovskiy Guards Tank Regiment occupy a leading position among the formation's units (chast')? Again, because it has been successful in insuring that the efforts and energies of its staff and all regimental services be governed by the interests of the tasks involved in developing the companies' ability to function as well-coordinated military units.

It is within the company that we see opened up the most favorable conditions for working with personnel on an individual basis. For in fact nowhere else is it possible to get such a good look at a man--his strong and weak points, how he relates to his comrades, his conduct, his aptitudes and inclinations and so forth. But the opportunities offered in this regard are, unfortunately, not everywhere utilized.

I recall the following incident. I was visiting one day the practice firing under way in the company commanded by Senior Lt P. Proshunin. To be frank, I must say that the firing here wasn't coming off to well at that point. Only one of the crews, perhaps, could be singled out as excelling in any respect, that led by Sgt N. Gasanov. It provided a gratifying display of real mastery. There arose the question of what the problem was here, why were all the tankers not well trained and prepared? We didn't have to look to discover the reason.

It was found to be contained primarily in the inadequately high level of tank fire-training exercises. Thought had occasionally been devoted to the people involved "in general," but frequently without any attention given to the gunners' individual characteristics or without taking into consideration their individual levels of training and preparation. What was required was a thorough reexamination of attitudes toward training exercises and an improvement in their quality; and then, primarily by intensifying activities conducted on an individual basis and by adopting a differentiated approach to the trainees involved, there were immediately some positive results to be noted. This company then later recieved an outstanding rating at the final record-fire testing.

Unfortunately, though, we can make no claim for an equally high level of training on the part of all companies and batteries without exception. There are subunits which are still lagging behind. There is a variety of reasons for this. The primary factors involved here, of course, are the organizational abilities and the level of individual training and preparation on the part of the company commanders and platoon leaders themselves. From the point of view of the quality of personnel training, not everything is entirely satisfactory, for example, within the company commanded by Senior Lt V. Ulanov.

There are no few officers among company-level commanders who clearly lack experience in the organization of training exercises, particularly company-level exercises. Not all have mastered to a sufficient degree the method of organizing socialist competition and indoctrination activities. They of course pick up much of use during training methods assemblies. We are not limited to assemblies alone, however. Activities conducted with them on a daily basis by their immediate superiors, the chiefs of the service branches and regimental services and by their formation commanders are the most important way to raise the level of methodological training and preparation of new officers.

Here is an example of the kind of thoughtful, painstaking work we are talking about. On the occasion of a visit one time in the course of specialty exercises being conducted in the battery commanded by Senior Lt A. Dzyavoruk, Lt Col S. Chubkov observed that the competition in meeting regulation standards had not been organized on the proper level. His experience helped the lieutenant colonel to spot the weak points, and he suggested a method of eliminating the deficiencies. Together with the battery commander, the staff officer worked up a record-keeping form to use for monitoring the achievement of individual and group norm requirements, which made it possible more accurately, more categorically to maintain a comprehensive and objective record of personnel training in the various specialty areas. This method has now won acceptance in other artillery subunits as well. This is an example of concrete, well thought-out work at the company level on the part of experienced senior officers.

Political section officers are doing a great deal with regard to generalizing and introducing into practice the experience accumulated by leading subunits.

One of the formation's companies recently conducted a meeting for its personnel with an agenda on the theme "Let us add greater glory to the name of our regiment and formation." Those speaking at the meeting emphasized that concern for the division's name, for its reputation, is the concern of each individual. This attitude toward their duties and responsibilities on the part of our personnel is one of the primary factors of success in progressing toward the goal of becoming a leading formation.

Mountain Training Exercise

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Aug 79 p 2

[Article by Lt Col Yu. Romanov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "Battle on the Side of the Pass"]

[Text] One slow step, then another.... The mountain boots with their toothed steel plates on the soles ("trikoni" [trans literated]) held well on both the grassy slopes and the rocky soil. From time to time the ice axe helped find a "third point of support." I was following along behind motorized rifle company commander Senior Lt S. Polozov. There he was, smiling broadly as he turned and wiped the sweat from his forehead with his sleeve. He had the plain, straightforward Russian face with alert, sharp-sighted eyes; his weather-protective suit couldn't conceal the powerful chest and shoulders of the fighting man and weight lifter.

The climb became ever steeper, the altitude higher and higher.

"Air!"

The column of motorized rifle troops disappeared right before my eyes. Preparing their antiaircraft weapon for action, the soldiers concealed themselves in the crevices of the cliffs, behind rocks and in the green, spiny-leaved Ephedra shrubs.

We were then on the march again. We were met with the danger of avalanches.... Front-line mountain climbing troops are probably the only ones capable of fully visualizing the endurance, courage and strength of will a climb "against a tactical background" requires in the Tyan'-Shan' mountains.

The order read as follows: "The 'enemy' violated the border early this morning.... The battalion is to move to the designated area, launch an immediate assault from its march column and destroy the 'enemy' in cooperation with the subunits of our forces conducting operations there."

Through the laminated safety glass of the commander's BMP [infantry combat vehicle] I saw that the narrow, extremely steep and winding road led up through the canyon. And then it turned into a path.... With their weapons and all their mountain gear, the soldiers advanced at a hurried pace. The infantry combat vehicles took up positions favorable for providing the troops with fire support. The battalion commander, Capt V. Neyfel'd, briefed the company commanders, passing on more detailed information on the mission. The motorized rifle troops moved off in their designated directions in company columns. Patrols maintained a vigilant watch; communications personnel were at work, commands and reports being transmitted concisely and efficiently. We found ourselves in a gray haze here at 2200 meters' altitude. Our movement beyond the clouds had begun.

Rapidly moving, maneuverable helicopters cut this down in some training exercises. But on this one we have been under way now for an hour or two, and it already seems like an entire eternity. I thought about Polozov, and my memory took me back to our meeting yesterday at his house.

Being shown on the TV was a film on the partisans based on the epic "The Great Patriotic [War--TR]."

"My grandfather on my father's side," Sergey remarked emptily after one of the episodes, "has already seen the entire series at the motion picture theater; he became very disturbed. It's all true and they've shown it like it was!, he said. He himself earned two Orders of the Red Banner during the war; he's got wounds all over him."

"And was anybody fighting from your mother's side of the family?"

"The fascists shot my grandfather and my grandmother.....," declared five-year-old Natasha.

"For communication with the partisans," her mother added, joining in the conversation. "That was at Novgorod...."

"But we won out anyway!" declared with a frown this descendent of men who fought with Aleksandr Nevskiy. "He who comes at us with the sword will die by the sword."

The following report came in over the radio: "The 3d company is to flank the 'enemy' from the left, seize the Pass Without a Name [Bezmyanny--TR] and hold it until the arrival of main battalion forces."

We had to push the "enemy" back out of the pass. So here we were pushing into the clouds.

As we advanced, Polozov pulled a map out of his plotting board.

"See here?" he said, turning to me and pointing up and over to the right. "Tha-a-t's the cliff. Beyond that we'll turn and that'll be the battalion's assault position."

Authoritatively and assuredly, instructions were issued to the platoon leaders; and the company now moved quickly, insofar as that was possible at that altitude, over several paths up toward the rocky saddle.

...Storming up the steep slope of the ridge, we then moved on out of the saddle. The haze dissipated, the sky became blue again and an eagle flew by almost overhead.

"Company!" Polozov commanded. "Tie up by squads."

We saw the snow across the top of the ridge. That told us that we had reached a great altitude and that we would soon be launching our assault on the pass. Off to our right, the main battalion forces were beginning their engagement with the enemy.

Our legs were filled with heaviness, and breathing had become difficult; but the company quickened its pace.

A training drill back at the mountain combat training center came back to mind.

"Request permission to begin, comrade senior lt," declared Lt Yu. Chepurdey.

"Go ahead," returned Polozov.

Chepurdey waved his hand signal flag. A few seconds went by, and then a soldier with his weapon began his slide on the suspended support out along a 100-meter cable stretched 20 meters high across a churning mountain stream. After him came a second man, then a third.... An entire squad went across. The 9 men then began their "primary obstacle course"--a dizzying mountain slope. They moved with remarkable assuredness, speed and skill. The figures of the soldiers shrank in size before my very eyes. Formidable slopes alternated over the training courses with rocky banks and piles of sharp rocks. A little bit longer...and the first man had conquered the summit. I looked through my binoculars...that was a familiar figure: machine gunner PFC G. Arutyunyan.

A short while later the rest of the squad appeared at the top. Another flag signal...and the squad, returning to its line formation, stepped up the pace of its movement toward its designated firing line.

They have still another, special-purpose weapon in their combat arsenal.

"If necessary," declared Lt Yuriy Chepurdey, "we can artificially create rockfalls, a mud stream, snow avalanches...."

We began to encounter more and more snow. Up ahead, according to the map, we would begin our descent down to the pass. The "enemy" was on the near edge of the "saddle." How should we approach him? Assigned this mission was the squad led by Sgt S. Ponomarev. The soldiers skillfully concealed themselves behind rocks, advanced in a low crawl and had soon noiselessly wiped out the "enemy" machine gunners. The company then massed at the pass and suddenly open up with aimed fire.

"Charge! Forward!" Polozov commanded. After a brief engagement, the motorized rifle troops occupied the pass.

Catching the snow on my parched lips, I for the first time took a look around.... The sun-bathed mountains and valleys of the Tyan'-Shan'! Even after seeing them only once in a lifetime, who would ever be able to forget the festive colors of these mountains, the sky and the vast, crystal-clear blue expanses gleaming with perpetually snow-covered peaks, vistas whose reflections in the sky-blue waters of the lakes you simply can't look at and admire long enough! For off in the distance down there a city sprawled free and unconfined. The people there lead a happy, peaceful life.

Polozov came over to where I was. The cold current blowing through the pass and the blinding mountain sun quickly dried out our sweat-soaked weather-protective suits, and a white salt residue formed on our chests, backs, even on our faces.

Looking at this strong fighting man from Novgorod, squinting in the bright sunlight, I could not help but admire him. The victorious assault on this high mountain pass which I had just had the occasion to witness presented itself to me as a concentrated product of the highly refined and perfected combat skills, courage and endurance demonstrated by this young officer and the motorized rifle troops he commands. What did I know about him? That Polozov was 24 years old, a communist, the commander of the best company in the regiment, a candidate for master of sport in Greco-Roman wrestling....

This simple notation from the efficiency report prepared upon his completion of his higher military school work may perhaps be seen as suggesting principles that would underlie his future course: "Industrious, efficient, honorable...." This is not the first year in his still young career that Polozov has participated in an assault on a pass. And the previous day he had won praise as commander, training officer and teacher.

"On our last battalion mountain training exercise," related battalion commander Capt V. Neyfel'd, "Polozov's company was operating under extremely difficult conditions--it was a night operation on unfamiliar terrain involving the use of night vision instruments. But this company insured the success of the entire battalion. The regimental commander and I were especially pleased with the assuredness with which Polzov's drivers performed, that his NCOs demonstrated a "feeling" for the tactical situation and that each man had an understanding of his own maneuver."

Day and night, in their combat vehicles on the edges of the precipices and linked together as they scale the cliffs, these soldiers are working to improve their mastery of mountain combat skills.

Mountains extend along many stretches of our motherland's borders. Practice drills and training exercises are conducted throughout these areas; standing watch along our borders everywhere are heroic fighting men like Senior Lt Polozov and his men.

PHOTO CAPTION

The company commanded by Senior Lt S. Polozov advances toward the pass.

Regimental Training Results

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Aug 79 p 1

[Article by Lt Col N. Kalmykov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, KRASNOZHAMENNY, Central Asian Military District: "Time Does Not Wait"]

[Text] Capt Mikhail Andreyevich Sidlyar is party committee secretary in a motorized rifle regiment. At the present time, however, he is performing on a temporary basis the duties of the deputy commander for political affairs. There is a great multitude of responsibilities; literally every minute has to be turned to account, but the scheduled trip to the field is not to be canceled: the party committee will meet in a day or two and discuss the communists' responsibilities in connection with the task of improving the state of motorized rifle troop fire training.

Regiment personnel had taken on themselves the obligation by the end of the training year to add their unit (chast') to the ranks of those designated "outstanding." But the final totals prepared at the end of the winter training period showed that these motorized rifle had achieved results which were actually much lower than those on which they had counted. One weak point among the others proved to be troop fire training.

We were going into the field together with Capt Sidlyar to the area in which the 2d battalion was in training.

On the way, the party committee secretary told about the 2d battalion and its commander, Capt N. Tarakanov, who had been in this assignment for about a year and in the course of that period of time had been able to tighten things up in that subunit considerably. But it still has plenty of unresolved problems.

"We are disturbed by things in the 6th company," declared Mikhail Andreyevich. "Early training for new personnel is still not being properly conducted. Then when it comes to fire training, the situation gets complicated—they're lost."

We found Capt Tarakanov in the middle tower. He had a toughened, weathered face and a stern, unsmiling look. Something had disturbed the battalion commander. He frowned, then jotted something down in his notebook. In contrast with Tarakanov, the smile never disappeared from the face of the 4th company commander, Senior Lt B. Yertayev. His company is outstanding, one of the best in the regiment; over the course of the field training period, his men had accomplished all their qualification test exercises with outstanding ratings—why shouldn't he be pleased?

BMPs were conducting competitions on the base line for the best squad. The signal was given. The troops quickly mounted and the combat vehicles began their acceleration, traces of fire immediately streaking over the ground.

"Those are mine firing. Sgt Shapovalov," declared Yertayev. "That's it! Outstanding! There's 5!"

"Verify it with the instructor anyway," the battalion commander directed, dampening his subordinate's spirits. "What difference does it make?"

"But what is there to verify? You can see," Yertayev replied with some heat; but then he picked up the receiver and called: "With the first one? And what about the time? I understand...."

Turning back to us he declared with some pride: "What was there to verify? Five points. That was Shapovalov...."

Other troops were now taking their places in the BMP. But we were already no longer observing the activities of the motorized rifle troops. The party committee secretary had engaged Capt Tarakanov in a discussion concerning the tank fire training, interesting himself in the organization of party political activities conducted in the course of the fire training exercise, of competition between the companies and how the commander himself evaluated things within the unit kollektiv on this particular day.

The battalion commander pulled no punches in replying. It was true that they had begun to make more use of the simulators, that they had organized training on an individual basis and that the communists had been able to mobilize and stimulate personnel to turn in first-rate performances in each exercise. But the newer troops were still coming up with low scores and certain NCOs lacked the ability to act with sufficient independence, in consequence of which officers had to concern themselves with squad-level activities.... How are we to resolve these difficulties?, the captain was thinking, deliberating. "Yes, here's what we'll do. We'll get all the communists together; we'll talk things over with them, compare the results of our observations and work up some recommendations. We still have a week of field training ahead of us. We can accomplish a lot."

He stopped. He looked inquiringly at the secretary.

"And the party committee will be helping out, too, I hope."

"Of course it'll help out," agreed Mikhail Aleksandrovich. "But you have to be more decisive yourself in eliminating these deficiencies. Why up until now have you made such little use of technical means of propaganda? It's all well and good that you devote many editions of your radio news programs to your outstanding personnel and to leaders in competition. But you have to give more coverage to deficiencies as well. Broadcast, let's say, the

outcome of unannounced Komsomol inspection campaigns over the radio network, or information concerning decisions by the party and Komsomol bureaus. There will be talks dealing with these matters with the aktiv, but commanders need to be taking full advantage of the potential offered by party and Komsomol organizations."

Their discussion lasted some while longer. The party committee secretary offered the battalion commander some practical suggestions. We then moved on to the areas in which company-level training exercises were under way. Capt Sidlyar had a wide-ranging plan: he would meet with political workers and activists, speak with people, listen to their views, look into the club's work under the conditions prevailing on the training range....

The party committee secretary is capable of sizing up a situation quickly, identifying the key aspects and of avoiding spreading himself too thin. I was struck by Mikhail Andreyevich's ability easily to move a person to candor, to create an impression on him by both word and deed. He knows many troops and NCOs by name and with an apt remark or a joke is able to relax tensions and bring on the smiles.

More than anything else, of course, Capt Sidlyar was interesting himself in the 6th company. He was able to speak with many people. And have a personal look at a lot of things as well. Came the end of the day, and he drew the following laconic conclusion: the unit is lagging behind in its methods training for NCOs.

Here was the conversation he had with the secretary of the company party organization. "Take a look at the exercise performance of Senior Lt Yertayev's NCOs," Capt Sidlyar observed to Lt V. Romanikhin. "Skillfully, competently, demonstrating an ability to act with initiative. But now, what about yours? Cautiously, with an eye on the officer, with an expectation of some prompting or guidance. Organize some exchange of experience. Invite Sgt Shapovalov, for example, to take part in squad-level training exercises."

Before leaving the training center, we met once more with the battalion commander.

"There have been some obvious changes for the better. There'll be some pointed discussion within the party committee, though," Capt Sidlyar observed to the battalion commander, showing him the numerous notes he had made in his notebook. "You have not yet fully exploited all your available potential for improvement. And time isn't waiting."

Time isn't waiting.... These motorized rifle troops well understand this, too; the regiment's communists are thoroughly aware of it. (Red Banner Central Asian Military District).

Heliborne Assault Landing

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Aug 79 p 1

[Article by V. Zhitarenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "Combat Study of the Army and Navy"]

[Text] Forcing the "enemy" back, the leading subunits broke through to the river. Guards Capt Shamil' Gabbasov, whose battalion had been held in reserve for the past 24 hours, realized that the time had now come for the men to initiate their active operations as well. He didn't have to wait long: an order arrived to execute a landing on the opposite bank and seize a bridgehead.

Flight after flight of transport helicopters set down on the landing site, which had just been cleared of "enemy" forces. Approaching this point was a battalion column. There were only a few minutes left until the troops would be boarding the helicopters. Guards Capt Gabbasov strove to make the best possible use of them. He verified flight route data with the squadron commander, Guards Lt Col V. Usov, and went over in greater detail the plans for cooperation.

Training drills were being organized at the landing site. Motorized rifle personnel were learning how to exit the helicopters, to "dismount" in the quickest possible manner. For the fact is that there is the "enemy" rear, even seconds may be of decisive importance. The troops performed skillfully: they had already accumulated experience in the execution of assault landings. But in this instance, the formation contained some new troops. Everything they encountered today was new and strange. Devoting special attention to them were platoon commander Guards Lt A. Tsymbalyuk and flight commander Guards Maj V. Kochetkov.

While these training drills were under way, the battalion commander was trying out possible alternative plans for the defense of the "patch" of terrain which had been seized and verifying procedures to be followed in cooperating with the artillery, which would be delivering fire across the river in support of the assault landing force. Everything possible had to be foreseen and provided for ahead of time. The experience of previous training exercises had taught Gabbasov this lesson.

The rotary-wing craft were now in the air. They moved along at low altitude, taking advantage of natural terrain features. Fire-support helicopters joined them at a designated point. Employing heavy fire, they were to achieve a "break through" with the establishment of an air corridor and destroy the "enemy" in the area of the landing site. By neutralizing his fire weapons to a great depth, the artillery also "worked" on behalf of the interests of the landing force.

The helicopters executed a maneuver for the purpose of countering the "enemy's" air defense. It will be no easy matter for him to determine where the assault force will land. Out the portholes it can be observed that one of his subunits which had been advancing toward the river had now halted its movement and changed its direction of advance. This indicated that its mission was to prevent the landing of the assault force.

But these motorized rifle troops had not anticipated any easy going in their operations in the "enemy" rear.

After landing their troops, the helicopters moved off back across the river. The battalion was left one-on-one with superior "enemy" forces. But then, why "one?" Aircraft were supporting the assault troops with bombing strikes on advancing "enemy" reserves. Then at the request of Guards Capt Gabbasov the artillery was delivering supporting barrage fire.

The assault troops themselves were demonstrating boldness in the execution of their own operations. By tying down substantial "enemy" forces, they were facilitating the main force assault crossing. At midnight, an advance detachment of the attackers joined up with the assault force. The bridge-head beyond the river had been seized. The skillfully executed air maneuver had been the key to the successful accomplishment of this complex combat training mission.

Poor Camouflage Discipline Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Aug 79 p 1

[Article by Col E. Babynin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Southern Group of Forces: "Ignoring Camouflage"]

[Text] Raising cloudy trails of dust behind, the armored personnel carriers moved down into the ravine. At that point, Senior Lt N. Fomenko, commanding a company in the advance party, received a scouting report: an "enemy" column had been spotted. The officer decided to move under cover to the ridge along the high ground dominating the terrain in the area and meet the "enemy" with a surprise attack.

The motorized rifle troops dismounted, took up favorable positions and prepared to open fire. "Enemy" reconnaissance and security subunits then appeared off in the distance. But then, unexpectedly for Fomenko, the tanks which had been attached to the company rolled out onto the top of the height and stopped a short distance behind the motorized rifle troops, who had hit the ground and moved into position. Now that's concealment for you: the "enemy" combat vehicles opened fire immediately.

"Who ordered you to bring these tanks out into plain view like this?" the frustrated and embarrassed subunit commander inquired. As it turned out, the senior commander had criticized the tankers for falling behind the

motorized rifle troops. So they decided to rectify the situation. Important advantages had thereby been struck from the hands of Senior Lt N. Fomenko: concealment in maneuver and surprise in attack. But the officer had yet to drain his cup of annoyance and frustration. A few minutes later, the battalion commander's armored personnel carrier pulled up and stopped some 30 meters behind him, also in full view of the "enemy." Coming up alongside was the regimental commander's vehicle. Then to top it all off, the umpire's big radio-equipped vehicle rolled out onto the height.

"There isn't anything more we could do for the 'enemy' reconnaissance," the company commander declared bitterly. "They've just canceled out my plans."

At the officer's request, the command APCs were moved back; but the umpire's vehicle remained in place: it "wasn't part of the game," he said.

Some conventions have to be allowed in the course of an exercise; they simply can't be eliminated entirely. But does this mean that we can ignore camouflage altogether? Of course not. In the meantime we really don't need in this instance to go into the matters of concealment, secrecy and the desire to outwit the "enemy" and impose one's will on him. The following was in fact the situation: prior to the beginning of the meeting engagement, the commanders of the opposing sides met on the hilltop and exchanged a few jokes, and it was only after this that they began operations in command of these subunits. What, if you will please excuse me, a sudden turn of events this was....

How are we to account for such a blatant disregard for the laws of combat and the requirements imposed by the Field Manual? Some comrades are of the opinion that the most important thing is to master the subject matter and let the rest take care of itself. The subunits involved in the exercise conducted tactical marching drills the evening before. And they were intensive. The motorized rifle troops solved the greatest variety of problems. Not to mention those connected with camouflage, utilizing protective terrain features and insuring operational security and concealment.

A strange break in activity occurred in a number of the battalion's subunits when the commanders went out on reconnaissance. These motorized rifle troops failed to take any camouflage measures whatsoever. They had their equipment located in fields open to air reconnaissance.

Each minute in the field is of especial value. We are all very well aware of this. But the personnel involved in this instance failed to attach the requisite value to the time they had available. They failed to utilize this opportunity to work on a number of norm categories important in connection with their field training standard or to review the Field Manual provisions which personnel had not yet sufficiently mastered.

Something about one of the other episodes occurring in the course of the training exercise is also highly instructive. In addition to looking better than any of the others participating in the exercise, Senior Lt N. Fomenko's company in spite of everything achieved success in its duel with the "enemy" advance party and destroyed it. But then something entirely unexpected occurred: Senior Lt A. Cholovskiy's company then launched its own attack on the GPZ [advance party], which had just been destroyed. Now there was in fact not the least necessity for this attack. But what won't happen when shortcuts and oversimplifications have become a part of the prior training?

Follow-Up Comments

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Nov 79 p 2

[Text] Published on 17 August was an article by Col Ye. Babynin entitled "Ignoring Camouflage." It dealt with a negligent attitude toward camouflage demonstrated in the course of a tactical training exercise by a unit of the Southern Group of Forces and with the unit's indulgence in oversimplification and toleration of shortcuts in the execution of camouflage measures.

As reported to the editorial staff by the unit commander and deputy commander for political affairs, the article was discussed at a meeting of officers and warrant officers. In the process of summing up the results of the training exercise, assemblies of battalion commanders and their deputy commanders subjected to a critical analysis the actions of the motorized rifle battalion commander who permitted this display of neglect of camouflage, Guards Maj V. Shchelokov. The question was raised at a meeting of the unit party committee of the need for more persistence and a greater sense of urgency in steps taken to deal with the simplistic approach, the short-cutting and the slackness visible in the training process.

The editorial staff considers it necessary to state in publishing this reply that it did not arrive until two months after the publication of the original article and then only after a reminder. It is impossible not to declare that this reply is of a purely formal nature. It does not make clear what specific steps have been taken in the course of the past two months to eliminate these deficiencies and how the measures taken have been reflected in training results. None of this does any credit to the person who signed the reply. A reminder is also in order in this connection that any instance of an improper response to criticism must trigger a sharp, prompt and effective reaction on the part of party bodies.

Staff Work Effectiveness

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Aug 79 p 2

[Article by Lt Gen A. Bezotosov, chief of staff of the Order of Lenin Moscow Military District: "Staff Effectiveness, Efficiency and a Creative Approach"]

[Text] The defenders were intensifying their resistance with every passing minute. They were bringing up reserves with the intention of launching counterattacks to recover their lost positions. The flow of information coming in to regimental headquarters had increased sharply. But there, as it turned out, the staff was falling behind in processing and analyzing data the commander required making his decision. Disruptions and delays developed in the command and control process which the "enemy" turned to his advantage.

All this came as a surprise. The staff of the regiment commanded by Guards Maj N. Kiyashko enjoyed the reputation of being a well-coordinated, well-trained organization. Its performance under stationary conditions, if we might use that term, had been typically well-organized and effective. So why was it that things fell apart in a combat training exercise?

Analysis showed that the regimental staff had not kept abreast of the course of events in large part in consequence of passivity on the part of battalion staff personnel. Reports concerning substantial changes in the situation had not been being received on a timely basis from the subunits involved, and then only following inquiries. The information which was finally reported was then not distinguished by any concreteness or detail. The staff officers concerned avoided formulating any independent judgements and failed to display that initiative which was so necessary in the current situation.

What explanation was there for the passivity of the subunits? Insufficiently high levels of professional training on the part of their senior officers? No, these were competent, conscientious officers fully capable of accomplishing in a first-rate manner the tasks they are assigned. The reasons were to be sought elsewhere. The mutual relationships prevailing between the staffs in the course of the regiment's daily routine had been of a one-sided nature: with respect to any given matter, the higher headquarters had been attempting to provide exhaustive instructions and explanations, while lower-level staff personnel were barely, and that only with difficulty, able to carry out the orders they had received. But this special form of tutelage accustomed the lower command echelon to expect orders and instructions from above to act while keeping a cautious eye continuously trained over its shoulder. These psychological nuances then left their mark on subunit staff performance in a combat situation.

Also having its effect was the fact that battalion staff personnel had routinely been being allotted only a minor role in command-staff exercises and staff training, in which the entire burden fell on the shoulders of subunit commanders. Finding themselves left in the background, as it were, they carried on their operations without requiring of their officers the mobilization of all their knowledge, skills and creative powers.

The connection between the manner in which staffs operate on a routine, daily basis and that in which they accomplish their tasks in a dynamic combat situation is an obvious one. Practical experience has demonstrated convincingly that where independence and initiative are supported and encouraged

and where superiors avoid resorting to unnecessary control over inferiors, it will be found that there the staff officers accumulate their professional knowledge quickly and acquire sureness and confidence in their own abilities.

Instructive in this respect is the manner of operation displayed by the staff of the Nth Motorized Rifle Regiment. The staff in this instance provides a reliable source of support for the commander in the process of resolving all problems and routine matters arising in the course of the daily routine.

Subunit staff personnel, too, demonstrate a high level of energy and efficiency. This all comes as a result of thoughtful, painstaking work with the staff officers involved. Their professional training is carefully subject-oriented and related clearly and closely to the practical matters concerned. Regimental-level personnel adopt prudent views of innovations, anything representing an advance or improvement emanating from within the subunits and support any reasonable and intelligent initiative directed toward enhancing the effectiveness of the training process and the effectiveness and efficiency of the conduct of socialist competition.

The battalion commanded by Guards Capt A. Komyak, for example, has long held a leading position in socialist competition. Its success has been continuous. Its motorized rifle personnel have been awarded "outstanding" and "excellent" ratings in all test performances. Upon what have these achievements been based? What may others find instructive in the operational performance of this battalion commander and his staff?

For the purpose of answering these questions, regimental staff officers looked into all aspects of subunit life and routine here. Senior comrades visited and observed training exercises and drills, meetings for personnel of the various services as well as party and Komsomol meetings. They spoke with each of the battalion's officers. They were able as a result to identify no little interesting and instructive. The battalion, for example, has developed a unique sequence in the training of its gunner-operators. It could be described in its essentials in the following terms: "combat vehicle—simulator—training area." This was proved to be a highly effective method, yielding as it does benefits in time saved and economies in the utilization of equipment. It is to the credit of this very group of staff officers at work within this battalion that their training procedure has now been adopted by other regiment and formation subunits. This indeed is practical industry and effectiveness.

The compilation of operational work results on a regular basis has become routine procedure within unit and subunit staffs. Also paying off have been the regular staff conferences which provide occasions for the discussion of interesting newspaper and journal articles, the exchange of opinion and sometimes discussion of the substance of problems brought up in the press. In this atmosphere where prevail a high level of exactingness and confidentiality, staff personnel quickly develop those leadership qualities referred

to in clear and persuasive terms in the decree of the CPSU Central Committee on "Further Improvement in Ideological and Political Indoctrination Work." A deep sense of responsibility, devotion to party, boldness and adherence to principle in the drive for combat readiness, an attentiveness to people--without these qualities it would be difficult to conceive of oneself as a staff officer.

But as the staff personnel in all units as industrious and efficient as those in this regiment? Unfortunately, this isn't the case. An aimless stirring and bustle and attempts to solve a multitude of problems simultaneously are passing in some instances for industriousness and efficiency. Some regimental-level comrades lack the patience and tolerance required in working to raise the levels of training and preparation of new battalion chiefs of staff. As a rule, these are in fact new officers. Having a background of command experience, they are now developing the skills and know-how required for staff work and familiarizing themselves with the procedures and routine involved. But is as much attention always devoted to them as to subunit commanders? No, they are not infrequently done out of their fair share of it, left, so to speak, to stew in their own juice; and in consequence they have to discover the truth and learn the ropes at the expense of mistakes.

A great staff concern is the effort to insure a high level of combat and political training. Unfortunately, however, higher-level staffs quite frequently fail to provide subordinate command echelons with models of good organization and planning and operational regularity and consistency in this regard.

I recently encountered the following case. One of the regimental staffs had planned a number of interesting activities to be incorporated in the command training system. Staff training exercise, group exercise, practical study of the organization of combat operations on marshy-wooded terrain.... It was planned to conduct all these activities in the course of a single month. But the organization of even one of these activities is an involved and burdensome affair. How in the world did the staff personnel involved here expect to be able to manage all these things in such short periods of time? There was no way they could, as it turned out. What they were trying to do was simply to insure that they came up with an interesting plan. As far as any implementation of it was concerned, most of the ideas it contained remained right on the paper. Now is this not a graphic object lesson in formalism presented to lower-echelon staffs?

The efficiency and level of intensity of staff work are, unfortunately, occasionally judged on the basis of how long the lights burn in staff windows. But the fact is that these windows are often lit up until midnight not because the interests of staff work require it. I somehow had occasion late one evening to drop in on the battalion staff where serving as chief of staff was Capt A. Komkov. The officers were all at their work areas.

"Some new communications came in unexpectedly," the chief of staff reported.

But what kind of "communications" were these? Even though it was after the end of the official duty day, regimental headquarters had requested the figures on the results of company fire training exercises. A quarter of an hour later, it was suggested that Capt Komkov give some thought to the possibility of conducting a demonstration exercise in one of the subunits and requested that he submit a report that same day. Then finally, but again urgently, the chief of intelligence requested data for a report he was to present to a meeting of officers. It goes without saying that all these figures, all these ideas and all this data are indeed staff-related matters. The senior officers involved knew exactly where to go for the information they needed. But the fact was that these higher-echelon staff personnel knew beforehand that they would need this information. Their requests could have been submitted in a timely manner; they would not then have become unexpected "communications." Occurrences like this are, in my view, indications not only of poor organization, but of a lack of respect for subordinates as well. Without actually desiring it as an end, of course, these senior comrades are transforming lower-echelon staff officers into mere executors of their orders without any initiative of their own.

It also happens that the sluggishness brought on by inertia prevents a higher-echelon staff from taking advantage in the interest of its mission of anything innovative or representing an improvement over current procedure emanating from a subunit-level organization. The following incident occurred in the course of one tactical training exercise. Having gone over to the defensive in goodtime, one motorized rifle battalion made the unusual decision to organize a fire system within company strong points. The regimental chief of staff would have had only to look into the whole point of the thing...he would then surely have discovered the rational kernel contained within this unconventional decision. But the regimental staff would then have had to modify its own plans, work up certain pieces of documentation again.... So the battalion headquarters received the following order: execute the plan "handed down from above" and don't try to be clever. Now can't we imagine that after this incident the battalion staff in the next training exercise would passively await the receipt of ready-made plans and decisions made by others?

A great deal associated with the improvement of a manner of operation depends on the unit staffs themselves. But higher-echelon staffs, the district staff in particular, cannot remain on the sidelines in this matter. We have long since adhered to the practice of having district staff officers participate directly in the preparation and conduct of unit-level command-staff exercises, on-site staff training exercises involving the use of communications equipment and other activities contributing to increased mastery of professional skills on the part of staff personnel. We try in the course of our drills and exercises to impose rigid time frames on the trainees and concentrate our attention on matters connected with subunit and unit command and control in

dynamic combat situations. Working at subunit level, district staff officers such as D. Nazarenko, A. Mironov, V. Yanovskiy and Ye. Dabolin, for example, provide young comrades with models of true staff skills and know-how, thorough, penetrating analysis of developments and a creative approach to mission performance. Their personal energy and efficiency and the tact they exercise in their relationships with other people provide good examples for the officers of the staffs under observation.

Staff personnel solve multitudes of problems every day. But their primary concern is to do everything possible to increase combat readiness. It is in this main direction that open up vast horizons for the demonstration of creative initiative on the part of every officer working at no matter command echelon. The summer period of intensive combat training is the most favorable time fully to discover his capabilities and talents and to accelerate his development. We need to make maximum use of it to achieve further improvement in the mastery of their professional military skills on the part of staff officers and further development of their ability to demonstrate initiative.

By exercising its influence on the manner and methods of staff operations, the nature of their mutual relationships and the effectiveness of their creative initiatives, the district military council is supporting everything new or representing an improvement in their operations, discovering the causes of deficiencies and taking effective measures to eliminate them.

To increase the effectiveness of staff operations at all echelons in connection with the accomplishment of the tasks lying ahead of personnel in the summer training period is to make a substantial contribution to the execution of training plans and the fulfillment of socialist obligations and to raise to new levels the combat readiness of our units and subunits.

River Crossing Exercise

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Aug 79 p 1

[Article by Maj V. Saranchev, Red Banner Far Eastern Military District:
"Crossing a Taiga River, Troop Field Training"]

[Text] Under its cover of fog the opposite bank of the river was almost invisible.

"That's when," reasoned Capt D. Volvenko, "we can achieve security from observation for our assault crossing." It was true that the mission would be complicated by the fact that between the bank itself and the small hills where the "enemy" had consolidated his position lay a difficult stretch of marshy floodplain. Negotiating it would be no simple matter. So it was a good thing the fog was depriving the "enemy" of the possibility of observing the surface of the river. This opportunity had to be exploited.

After analyzing the situation, Capt Volvenko put the final touches on a plan of operation he had devised: cross to the island under cover of darkness and then at daybreak begin the assault crossing of the main stretch of the water obstacle. Engine noise in another direction had to be simulated to mislead the "enemy."

This is what was done. The motorized rifle troops secretly, under the cover provided by darkness, crossed over to the island. The battalion continued its skillful performance in accomplishing the next phase of its operation as well. Each combat vehicle afloat became an awesome fire weapon. It happened in this instance that the BMP [Infantry combat vehicle] commanded by Junior Sgt V. Lavchenko ran aground. But the crew and landing force personnel kept their heads at this critical moment. While the driver worked the vehicle off the sandbank, the landing force troops and the gunner-operator delivered aimed fire on the "enemy" positions.

Also demonstrating a high degree of self-control was the crew of another vehicle, which the swift current began to sweep toward a steep bluff. But the driver was nevertheless able to moor the vehicle to the bank and locate a point suitable for continuing the advance up out of the water. The motorized rifle troops had been delivering intensive fire the entire time.

And so it was throughout all phases of the assault crossing. Under these difficult conditions the troops had demonstrated resourcefulness, initiative and boldness. It had been felt that they would never become accustomed to the nature of the Far East's rivers. But the subunit's training procedures had been proven reliable.

Are the personnel everywhere so well trained and prepared to negotiate water obstacles? Not everywhere, unfortunately. There has been occasion to encounter the following deficiency. Some officers believe that the main burden in the execution of an assault crossing falls on the driver, while the rest of the troops are simply passengers of a sort. Their training programs reflect this point of view. Only for the drivers is training conducted dealing with the BMPs capabilities afloat, vehicle operating procedures, methods of negotiating various kinds of obstacles and barriers and safety measures.

But it is not really necessary for the rest of the crew members, including those personnel crossing as part of the landing force, also to be able to deal with these important matters? They are in addition of no small importance in connection with the psychological conditioning of the troops.

An incident occurring in the course of another training exercise comes to mind in this regard. When it came time for the execution of the assault crossing, the company commander, Senior Lt V. Zinchenko gave out the following tactical problem: "The combat vehicle has been damaged. Execute an assault crossing of the river by swimming or floating across utilizing any available

means." This tactical problem did not take the BMP crew by surprise. It had been prepared for it by its training exercises. But it produced confusion among the landing force personnel. What these soldiers knew was that they could not remain inside the vehicle, but neither did they decide to abandon it and run it into the raging river. They had never before had occasion to have to deal with a situation like this. It was clearly to be concluded that training to take skillful, effective action under conditions presented by water obstacles was necessary not only for the specialists and vehicle crews, but for all the rest of the troops as well. A river poses a serious challenge for all of them.

I recall how Senior Lt B. Glinskiy's men performed in a difficult, dynamic combat situation. These motorized rifle troops had been assigned the mission of gaining with a quick assault the sea coast occupied by the "enemy" landing force. But following heavy rains, the terrain had meanwhile become impassable for their armored personnel carriers. The subunit commander decided to abandon the vehicles and advance on foot. A swiftly flowing mountain river presented an obstacle to the motorized riflemen's further movement at one point. It was decided to swim it. The risk involved was minimal, because subunit personnel had previously undergone intensive and effective swimming instruction and exercises, with their equipment included. The troops were taught to jump from a tower, utilize any material available in the river as means of support and to provide mutual assistance to one another in the water. So no one in this difficult situation faltered or hesitated. And the mission was accomplished.

The taiga's rivers are an ill-tempered lot. To be able to count on success in undertaking assault crossings across them and in victory on the battlefield requires thorough and comprehensive training.

Battalion Training Results Reviewed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 79 p 1

[Article by motorized rifle battalion commander Capt A. Khayrulin, Central Group of Forces: "Rigor in Analysis"]

[Text] As he analyzed the course of the tactical training exercise, the senior commander took note of the battalion's well-coordinated operations and the good field training standards of its personnel. Then he began to dwell on its deficiencies and gave it a "good" rating.

I experienced a sense of annoyance and disappointment following the exercise critique. The evening before, battalion personnel had taken on the obligation to achieve an "outstanding" rating in their combat training exercise. But now, as it turned out, we hadn't kept our word.

My disappointment and annoyance were then all the greater after speaking with the battalion's officers. I realized that these exercise results were not a source of concern for all of them. Obligations are obligations, some comrades were reasoning, but a "good" rating also does the subunit credit. They didn't attach any particular importance to the deficiencies the exercise had revealed. They didn't amount to much, they said.

But was this really the case? I recalled several incidents. The company under the command of Lt Yu. Serkov executed its missions on the march. But irregularities were to be observed in the column's movement which were the result of its drivers' nonuniform training backgrounds. The BMP under the command of Sgt B. Sanchez, for example, would lag behind every now and then, disrupting the column's movement in the process. Can we view this deficiency as not really amounting to much?

Or take another incident. Senior Lt A. Lukavskiy's company was assigned to take up defensive positions on some hills which had steep slopes. It was too late at night. The vehicles began their descent, moving down as if on the steps of an enormous stairway. But then it turned out that some of the drivers were unprepared psychologically for this challenging test; they were afraid their BMPs would turn over. They had previously never had to operate their vehicles on slopes this steep. We could hardly view this gap in our training, this oversight, also as insignificant.

To make a long story short, both I myself and the secretary of the party organization have since had more than one occasion to come back to the results of this tactical training exercise and turn the attention of all personnel to the problems that remain unresolved.

What we are talking about here really involves personnel indoctrination as well. Considering that it in fact sometimes occurs that a subunit has not achieved the level marked out for it in competition, but this then occasions no concern within the organization. The obligation has served its purpose, people say; it made the troops gung-ho and helped stimulate the required enthusiasm for combat. The fact that a full 5-point rating might not have been achieved is no disaster; we should also be proud of a "good" rating.

It is indeed true that a "good" rating can be achieved only with a great deal of effort. But if obligations call for the maximum achievement, the actual accomplishment should then be evaluated in accordance with the strictest standards.

Competition is oriented primarily toward helping personnel learn to exploit to the limit the full potential incorporated in their weapons and equipment by the underlying design philosophy and conceptions involved. But as the reaction of some officers to exercise results indicates in particular, this notion has begun to lose its concrete relevance for some people.

No little effort is now required to develop in personnel a more stringent, more exacting attitude toward their own work and achievements. And this primarily on the practical level. The nature of our daily drills and exercises has become more complex. They have begun to involve a greater number of norm rating categories. Our training conditions are now such that any given mission can be executed only by fully exploiting the entire range of combat capabilities offered by the equipment involved.

We are devoting special attention to the tactical training of our drivers. For the fact is that it is not enough for them to be able simply to operate a vehicle skillfully; they have also to be capable of conducting observations of the battlefield, competently evaluating its protective terrain features and selecting advantageous positions from which to deliver fire. In the course of their tactical and marching drill exercises, drivers are carefully drilled in their procedures connected with the dismounting and mounting of assault troops on the BMP.

Gunner-operator training has also become more practical and operations-oriented. Individual work and exercises supplement their regularly scheduled training. The efforts expended are not to be regretted. The weapon in the hands of today's gunner-operator is the equal in firepower of the capabilities of an entire rifle company in the period of the Great Patriotic War. Regularly conducted competitions for the title of "best specialist" and prompt and timely analysis and generalization of the experience accumulated by those who have turned in outstanding performances in the most difficult operational areas exercise a positive influence on personnel in their efforts to achieve increased mastery of their combat skills.

The latest test and qualification exercises indicate that following the exercise which we have not allowed its personnel to forget, the battalion to which we have referred has achieved substantial progress in improving its combat skills. Not only the officers, but the troops as well, have learned to be more exacting in evaluating their own performances. This indeed is an essential condition of first-rate performance in the process of fulfilling the training plan and programs and socialist obligations.

Mountain Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Aug 79 p 1

[Article by Capt A. Ladin: "Battle at Red Rock"]

[Text] Capt Ladin, Anatoliy Petrovich has been named permanent KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent for the Red Banner Central Asian Military District. We publish his report below.

Senior Lt A. Rozhkevich estimated how long it would take to cover the remaining stretch of the route--three hours, no more. But anything could happen in the mountains, so a little extra time in reserve wouldn't hurt.

Step by step the little company chain worked itself higher and higher up the mountain. Its members had twice to move literally in one another's footsteps in crossing a rocky scree. Here, you have to keep both eyes open, as the saying goes. One false move...and the rush of an avalanche of mountain rock springs to life and pours down the slope sweeping away every living thing in its path. But these motorized rifle troops negotiated the obstacle with confidence. As he observed his men, Senior Lt Rozhkevich did not conceal his pride. How they had progressed and developed their strength during their past months in the service.

The company had been assigned the mission of operating as a flanking unit. Its route was no easy one: it had to negotiate rocky trails and in the process cover territory where the foot of man had long since or never trod. In the course of a halt, PFC A. Tarlykov observed:

"How far we must have come without seeing a single bird. They surely wouldn't fly all the way up here, would they?"

It's entirely possible that they don't. And then to think what it must be like for a man up here.... Rozhkevich recalled the first time he had led new troops up into the mountains. Many had seen only pictures of them before. The senior lieutenant looked over his men and sensed that here was an unknown, fairy-tale world beckoning to them. But not all of these troops were able the first time up to see with their own eyes the surrounding expanse from the height of a bird in flight. Many new men lacked the necessary endurance. After that there began the intensified training. Senior Lt Rozhkevich and other company officers exerted no small effort to develop the necessary qualities in their men, to toughen their muscles and to steel their will. The process of "conquering the mountains" advanced from the simple to the complex. It began with a period of acclimatization, mastering the basics of rock climbing and training exercises in a mountain sports training area.

Platoon-level field firing exercises could soon be conducted in the mountains. And now lying immediately ahead is the opportunity to advance to a new level of achievement--the company is participating in a tactical training exercise. Yesterday's green troops experiencing fear and timidity in their first encounter with the high mountains are not to be recognized in these strong, physically well-conditioned fighters decked out in their mountain-climbing gear. It was with some pride that they now received the news that their subunit had been assigned the mission of completing their maneuver among the rocks and crags, advancing on the high mountain pass and attacking the "enemy" from the rear.

As he received the mission, Senior Lt Rozhkevich noticed the steady gazes fixed in his direction from Senior Lts A. Plakan and A. Alayev--comrades in arms and rivals in competition. Visible in their eyes was a good-natured envy and the warning: "Don't you let me down." But knowing Aleksandr's obsession with the service and his drive and industriousness, they believed in their success and had confidence in their comrade.

After verifying the company's location, he decided on a brief halt. A glacier lay up ahead. The troops could already feel its cold breath. Visible up ahead in the form of enormous white fingers were the tips of its melted layers. Further on its wind-polished surface. Even during their halt these motorized rifle troops let no time go to waste: they tightened the straps and laces on their mountain boots and prepared their ice axes and emergency ropes for use. Faultingly, disapprovingly, the commander inspects each man's gear and reminds all of their safety procedures and basic methods of providing one another with support and assistance. He had already decided to negotiate the glacial slope in linked squad formations. He planned to include himself in the first group. But at that point platoon leader Lt Yu. Chernen'kiy came up with: "I request to be allowed to go with the first group..."

The company commander satisfied the young officer's request. And down inside he was pleased with him. Lt Chernen'kiy had not been seriously involved in mountain climbing prior to his assignment to the company. He had a hard time at first. But he took up the business with a passion, and within a year he had mastered everything a mountain training instructor was required to know and be able to do.

After negotiating the glacier, Lt Chernen'kiy, who had led a reconnaissance patrol, soon reported that an "enemy" column below was advancing along a mountain river bed. The plan was clear: the "enemy" had decided to strengthen his defense of the pass by bringing up reserves. The company's mission had just become more complicated. There was no more time for hesitation. Senior Lt Rozhkevich quickly plotted on his map the coordinates of the column which had been spotted and calculated how far it would have advanced by the time his motorized rifle troops reached the pass. His pencil stopped at the point where the map indicated the narrowest spot along the canyon. Rozhkevich knew this spot. Rising up over the narrow gap between spurs was a cliff covered with a brick-red deposit. This was the kzyl-zhar--red rock.

His decision took shape in an instant: he would leave Lt Chernen'kiy's platoon to lay an ambush at Red Rock. He would cut off to the "enemy" vehicles their route of further advance by blowing up the cliff and attack the infantry from the dominating height with grenades and rifle fire. The other two platoons would meanwhile continue on toward the pass.

The company commander's bold operational concept was implemented successfully. At the close of the training year this provided good confirmation of the fact that personnel were successfully fulfilling their obligations in competition.

...High up in the mountains the bonfire began to blaze up in the twilight, a smoky haze stretching lazily away from the field kitchen. Gathered together there were both those who had defended the pass and those who had launched their attack against it via the hairpin turns and steep mountain slopes. The day just coming to a close had become for all involved yet another step on the way to the summit of their combat maturity.

8963

CSO: 1801

AVIATION UNITS: TRAINING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Helicopter Maintenance Deficiencies

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Sep 79 p 2

[Letter to editorial staff from Maj O. Chentosh, deputy chief for political affairs of a technical maintenance unit [TECh po politichasti], Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "They Knew, But They Remained Silent"]

[Text] Capt V. Shevyakov speaks in his letter about the various forms in which violators' unreliability and connivance are manifested. Recently I had occasion to encounter one of such manifestations—silence instead of strict censure and sharp criticism of a violator of regulations.

Specialists in a group led by Tech-Capt A. Gubenko were performing routine maintenance on a helicopter engine. The protective cover over the inspection hatch had to be taken off. The group chief entrusted this operation to a specialist first class, Warrant Officer V. Bachinskiy. It turned out that he was unable to twist the cover off with a wrench. What was to be done here? In this case, he was counting on dissolving the carbon deposits which had formed with a special liquid or boring through the cover. The warrant officer decided to do it with a hammer and chisel. As a result, the outer casing of the engine was damaged seriously...

Being engaged in competition, Warrant Officer V. Bachinskiy wrote in his pledges: "To carry out routine maintenance with quality and on time, and to strive for a high technical standard." These are the words. But in fact the specialist is beating this very technical standard with a sledgehammer, figuratively speaking.

At the end of the work day I stopped in at the group's laboratory, where the aviators had gathered to discuss what had happened. My attention was struck by the estranged and reticent expression on their faces. There was a painful silence. Just two persons broke it:

Officer Gubenko informed his subordinates about what had taken place and Warrant Officer P. Motol'ko noted with a sigh: "Now the engine will have to be taken out and repaired..." And again silence fell. Bachinskiy's rival in competition, Warrant Officer V. Mashchenko, is sitting here. His voice does not stop in the work area; he is not saying a word here. Nor was a word heard from Rafid Yarov, a reenlisted sergeant who gives no quarter to his twin brother Rashid, a mechanic in this group, and does not overlook his slightest error. But they are holding their tongues here... At the same time, each one is well aware that the engineering violation by Warrant Officer Bachinskiy means failure in fulfilling the group's pledges in competition. So why were no words of reproof heard for the aviator who led the entire collective?

It appears to me that the position of Tech-Capt A. Gubenko did not play the final role here. In fact, Warrant Officer Bachinskiy used the hammer and chisel before his eyes. True, the group chief did not instruct his subordinate to use a hammer and chisel. But he did not prevent him, either.

The incident described here is not the only one of its type, unfortunately. Once A. Zinovin, a reenlisted sergeant, suggested to his comrades in the group—his neighbors in the room they shared—that they spend the evening in a bar. They kept him company. True, they themselves refused to drink, but they did not stop Zinovin. The next day he came to work late. He left work without waiting for the end of the work day. Some of the aviators knew the reasons for such conduct, but kept quiet. Zinovin received a severe disciplinary penalty and was excluded from the ranks of the Komsomol. Now it is clear to everyone what kind of service the "silent ones" rendered to him.

We must strive to ensure that each member of a military collective actively expresses his own attitude and intolerance toward the offenses of his colleagues. After all, silence and indifference in such a case stand for connivance with the one who violates regulations. This is not the best way to have an effect on the success of a military collective. Here the group led by officer Gubenko also lost the title of excellent in the winter training period.

But the main reason, it seems, is that they slackened individual work with persons here. They are not using the educational role of competition to the full extent.

At a recent session of the party bureau, officer Gubenko had to answer for his deficiencies in the leadership of competition. A conversation based on principle was held. About responsibility for work that has been assigned. About the high duty of a communist officer.

After analyzing the reasons for the shortcomings, the communists of the technical maintenance unit outlined specific measures to clear the atmosphere in the group collective. They put the principal emphasis on creating conditions of strictly mutual demand for unfailing observance of the requirements of manuals and regulations.

Interceptor Squadron Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 79 p 1

[Article by Capt A. Gatilov, deputy squadron commander and military pilot first class, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "From a High Altitude"]

[Text] The tactical flight exercise was held under conditions as close as possible to real combat. A group of crews from the squadron commanded by Lt Col S. Arbusov landed at an unfamiliar airfield after completing the flight. Now we were to carry out bomb strikes against targets on the range.

Before the exercise a party meeting was held at which squadron communists discussed how to best carry out the tasks assigned and the socialist pledges made. The tone was set by Capt Yu. Silonov, secretary of the party organization. "This will be an examination for us on the eve of the final check for the year," he said. "And we communists are obliged first of all to demonstrate excellent tactical flight training."

The party leader backed up his appeal with a personal example. He mastered operations on the simulator until they were automatic in a critical period of time, placing himself under the most difficult conditions. He carefully marked out the tactical situation on the flight chart and plotted and computed his route. He studied the "enemy's" means of air defense, and thought out ways of overcoming them. All the pilots also prepared themselves painstakingly.

Captain Silonov was the first in our group to climb to a high altitude and, coming out at the assault position precisely on time, he hit the target like a sharpshooter. Now it's my clearance for takeoff.. Shortly before this the political worker had announced in a special release of the radio newspaper that my rival in competition—Flight Commander Capt Viktor Shabalin—had performed excellently on the range. I was glad for my comrade's success...

I engage the engine's afterburner. The aircraft entered dense clouds hanging low over the airfield. The airspeed increased rapidly. It was important to hold the angle of pitch proportionate to the climb, to pilot the aircraft without the slightest deviations from the assigned flight regime. One cannot do without thorough knowledge and strong skills here.

For this reason, much attention is devoted in our squadron to advance preparation for flights. Taking into account the nature of forthcoming missions, the aviators extend their knowledge of appropriate sections on practical aerodynamics and examine peculiarities in the operation of aircraft systems in detail. The commander assigns experienced officers to deliver a report on the most timely topics. Naturally, in preparing for the presentation, the pilot will strive to examine the substance of the matter thoroughly. Before flights in this exercise, for example, Capt I. Mishurov delivered a report. In the course of preliminary preparation we also were trained in working out engineering and navigational calculations for the flight.

...The sun's rays poured into the aircraft's cockpit in a brilliant stream. The clouds remained far below. The color of the sky changed right before my eyes in proportion to the increase in altitude. At first it appeared colorless, then it darkened to a dark blue and took on a violet hue. Flying at ordinary altitudes near the ground, you become accustomed to the fact that the earth's surface appears darker than the horizon, penetrated by sunlight. This, of course, helps when performing rapid maneuvers and orienting one's self in airspace correctly. But in flight at a high altitude, the earth and sky appear to change color. And a false impression that the aircraft is flying in an inverted attitude may sometimes be created for a pilot. In order to avoid control errors, he should rely not on sensations but on instrument readings. And I did not doubt the accuracy of these readings for an instant. I knew that the aircraft equipment had been readied excellently by our technicians. And regular, persistent training on the ground had enriched my experience in flying on instruments.

The fact that Maj N. Mirzoyev, the combat control officer, is helping me to perform complex maneuvers also has inspired me with confidence of success. Previously a military pilot first class, he is well aware of the peculiarities of every mission. He always prepares for flights together with us. And now his voice is ringing out in the ether calmly, clearly:

"On a combat great-circle flightpath, course computed."

This means that the aircraft has left for the assault position. I maintain the assigned flight regime exactly. In case the parameters are changed, the automatic equipment of the sighting device will enter corrections, of course. But we must be prepared to work with a sight manually. After all, the fact that automatic equipment can be rendered inoperative under real combat conditions is not ruled out. For this reason, we often receive introductory instructions in exercises to operate after switching it off. By the way, Capt V. Sokirko had to perform under precisely such instructions. And the pilot proved to be well

prepared for the difficult situation both psychologically and professionally. He performed the sighting quickly, accurately and skillfully. The strike turned out to be effective.

The critical moment is approaching. With my report on the radio, authorization follows to work on the range. As soon as the aircraft reached the point calculated, the bombs rushed down on the target. At the same time I felt as if there were a light push from below—the aircraft had ballooned up after the heavy load was released.

I had to make a landing approach under minimum weather conditions. But the report received in flight that the main element of the mission had been carried out successfully—the target had been hit—was like adding to my strength. I was happy to realize that I also had made a contribution to the overall success. Carrying out each mission with an excellent rating and fully straining every effort in our work—each one of us sees his duty in doing this.

Maintenance Technicians Praised

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Sep 79 p 2

[Article by Col V. Izgarshv: "The Hands of the Technician"]

[Text] "The dinner proceeded noisily, happily. There were toasts and songs. Pokryshkin sat silently, with his own thoughts. And suddenly he said to Grisha Chuvashkin, sitting next to him:

"Let's drink to the technician's hands..."

"Chuvashkin bashfully drew his swollen, chapped hands, impregnated with grease and dirt, back from the table.

"Yes, yes, to these very paws, a hundred times frozen and two hundred times burned and tanned with gasoline! Here... Do you think I've forgotten how you took the tank from my MiG to all the sovkhoses for cooking in the summer? Here the Germans are approaching, and he...is ramtling over the roads with this tank, full of holes..."

"Grisha turned red. He remembers this story well. He was nearly surrounded because of this tank then, in fact. While they did not succeed in welding up the hole, the technicians contrived to tightly patch up the tank with percale fabric and cellulose dope. Thus the MiG survived to the end of its days with this patch.

"There you are, comrades," Pokryshkin said, raising his voice. "I drink to the technician's hands that helped us to earn the Guards banner."

These lines are from the documentary story "Odnig iz tysyachi" [One MIG Out of a Thousand] by Yuriy Zhukov. They tell about the festive dinner on the day that the fighter regiment was changed to a Guards regiment. At the formation Captain Pokryshkin, on behalf of the regiment commander, read the congratulatory telegram from Maj Gen Avn K. Vershinin, commander of the Southern Front of the Air Forces. And here is this toast by a pilot at the festive dinner of aviators. A profoundly symbolic toast!

The hands of a technician... The golden hands of an aviation worker! However, the famed Soviet ace Aleksandr Ivanovich Pokryshkin, three times Hero of the Soviet Union and future Marshal of Aviation, knew the true value of these good, skilled hands perhaps better than anyone in the regiment then. In fact, he was one of the technicians. Not 1 year before entering flight school, Aleksandr Pokryshkin served as the technician for a flight...

Lt Gen Engr-Tech Serv Aleksey Alekseyevich Paramonov, deputy chief engineer of the Air Forces, followed the path of combat during the war from the Don to the Spree, all the time as a senior technician of an aircraft squadron. He knows about the hard days and nights at frontline airfields and not by hearsay.

The general cannot speak about his fighting comrades--the technicians and mechanics of wartime--without emotion. What specialists--they were priceless! A pilot would fly in sometimes from a combat mission and the airplane would be riddled with holes, oil pouring out, the cockpit canopy smashed, the control-surface rods hanging on by a thread... You would not know how to set about it. You would think that it wouldn't be simple to restore such an aircraft even at the plant. You would spend the night and in the morning the airplane would be ready for flight. The pilots didn't call the technicians magicians for nothing!

Today's Air Forces are a qualitatively new branch of the Armed Forces. The basis of their combat might are the missile-carrying aircraft, provided with the latest navigation equipment and armament, means of detecting targets and systems for ensuring accurate strikes against them. In battle formation are multimission airplanes with variable-sweep wings and vertical takeoff and landing aircraft. Aviation has become jet-propelled, supersonic, and all-weather.

The airplane of today is not a simple fighting machine but a most complex system embodying the latest achievements of scientific and technical progress. Maintaining such a system, keeping it in constant combat readiness and releasing it for flight is far from a simple matter. It requires thorough, versatile technical knowledge and high skill from the persons engaged in this. It is not a coincidence that the proportion of officers with engineering training among aviation technical personnel is increasing.

Graduates of higher engineering schools also are coming to the positions of technicians in aviation now. As an example, Guards Engr-Lt V. Sokolov is serving in the Proskurovskiy thrice-decorated Guards Fighter Regiment imeni Leninskiy Komsomol. The son of a military pilot, he completed the Riga Higher Military Aviation Engineer School imeni Yakov Alkanis last year and now is working as an aircraft technician. Things are going well for the young officer. Squadron commander Guards Maj V. Bokach and his deputy, Guards Maj S. Bezlyudnyy, have more than once noted the diligence and skill of the competent specialist.

In another aviation unit, Engr-Lt Yu. Kudryavtsev and Engr-Lt B. Gusev have proven themselves to be excellent airplane technicians. I recall how they both readied aircraft to fly out again in the shortest times in the "Berezina" exercise. Several times a day their commanders took off in the fighter-bombers. And the technicians did not hear one remark about the readiness of the aircraft.

But many technicians for airplanes and flights and maintenance group chiefs are specialists with a secondary technical education. However, with secondary school and 3 years of study in an aviation technical school behind them, they also have thorough knowledge, and their skills are such that it is possible for them to be qualified multiskilled specialists. Tech-Sr Lt Anatoliy Myasnikov, one of the best technicians in the unit, is serving in the same regiment as Vadim Sokolov. Last year he was given a high trust--to be among the personnel of our squadron of fighters which made visits to Finland and France. I saw how Anatoliy worked there. The high personal responsibility and discipline typical of him as a communist, the thorough knowledge of equipment and first-class skill in its preparation contributed to a considerable extent to the success of our pilots' demonstration flights.

It was last winter during a tactical flight exercise in one of the squadrons of the Belorussian Military District. Accepting an aircraft from repair, Tech-Sr Lt A. Dyul'din detected a barely noticeable fuel leak in one of the subassemblies. Should the flight of this aircraft be excluded from the planned schedule for tomorrow? Should the aircraft be sent to the technical maintenance unit? But after all, this may affect completion of the exercise tasks! They made the decision in the squadron to correct the trouble by their own efforts under field conditions. And here are officer Dyul'din and his comrades in the cold and the howling wind, without closing their eyes all night, dismantling a number of subassemblies and components in order to reach the location of the trouble and eliminate the malfunction. Later the engineer estimated that under normal conditions this operation would require not less than a day and a half. Right here, in the field, they had spent a third as much time. At the same time, the work was carried out faultlessly.

The pilots received the usual excellent evaluation in the exercise. They rightfully attributed it to the technicians who had succeeded in ensuring that the aircraft was made operational before the beginning of the exercise.

Tech-Lt Nikolay Orlov also distinguished himself in this exercise. He was working as a member of the commander's crew. The commander was flying out to check the weather, and was leading a group of fighter-bombers into combat. Several times he took off. And each time his aircraft was ready for the next flight ahead of schedule: the technician was performing on the ramp beyond all praise.

Communist Tech-Lt Sergey Ruban serves as an aircraft technician in the "X" aviation unit in the Baltic Military District. He is an excellent specialist, the best technician in the unit. The district's commander for aviation often flies in the aircraft which he maintains. And each time he warmly thanks the technician of the excellent aircraft for the exemplary condition of the combat machine. Incidentally, the shelter housing the excellent aircraft also is maintained by the technician in an exemplary manner. Sergey Ruban is one of the activists in the unit's party organization. As a member of the council of the unit's junior officers, he enjoys the high respect of his comrades and senior officers.

Tech-Lt Gennadiy Samokhvalov, an aircraft technician, is a member of the party committee of a fighter regiment. I was a witness when the regiment commander (also a party committee member), after returning from a flight in the aircraft readied by Samokhvalov, consulted with the lieutenant on the procedure for discussing the question of propaganda of military and technical knowledge among junior officers and warrant officers at the forthcoming committee session.

"The technician always has been respected in aviation," Aleksey Alekseyevich Peramonov told me. "Now his role has increased even more. An engineer is an engineer, but the specialist immediately responsible for an aircraft who releases it for flight, and who is able to set a rivet, weld and solder is, in a word, a person with the golden hands of a skilled craftsman who will always be needed and will always be surrounded by the respect and honor of aviators..."

After a pause the general continued to reflect aloud:

"Consider this fact. As many technicians as I know--all have strong families, all have well-bred, diligent children. And this is not a coincidence: the technician is also a skilled craftsman in everything. The radio, television, and household appliances in his apartment always are in good repair. And the small children, looking at their father, become accustomed to work from childhood... Technicians, if they study further, turn out to be the best engineers. That is a fact."

But understandably, everyone cannot be engineers. The majority of technicians remain technicians throughout their entire service. Of course, their professional training increases. They become high-class specialists and receive the qualifications of an expert.

I recall the words of a letter received by the editorial staff. It told about the service and the family of an aviation technician—a person who loved his work to the point of self-forgetfulness. His oldest son had already completed secondary school. And here the father was as if he were standing still—serving in one rank—the rank of senior lieutenant. The writer of this letter understands that there are, and apparently always will be, positions in the army in which one will not advance to high ranks. But is it impossible, the writer asks, to think about distinguishing the persons who hold positions like the technician in some way, all the same? Perhaps we should somehow provide better incentive for advancing the class level of the aviation technician.

Take such a question, for example. In our country the correctness of a person in a once selected profession is highly valued—honorary titles have been established. There are honored artists and doctors, teachers and agronomists, cultural workers and machine operators... In aviation, including military aviation, honorary titles are awarded to pilots and navigators. Is it impossible, the writer of the letter to the editorial staff asks, to give incentive for the many years of selfless labor of aviation technicians in such a manner?

Further. Flight personnel—pilots, navigators, flight engineers and flight technicians—have individual flight logs. This is the face of the aviator. His entire flight service has been reflected on the pages of this logbook. But is it impossible to establish a similar logbook for the aircraft technician as well? How many times has he released an aircraft that he has checked for flight? What evaluation has he received for the quality with which equipment has been readied? This and much else would be reflected in that logbook. It seems that this document also would be a great incentive for the technician's professional growth, a subject of his pride and fond memory for his entire life.

Before putting an end to this article, I called on Mar Avn A. Yefimov, first deputy commander in chief of the Air Forces and twice Hero of the Soviet Union:

"Comrade Marshal, do you remember the technicians for your own airplane during wartime?"

Aleksandr Nikolayevich answered without hesitation:

"Still! Yuriy Mikhaylovich Konovalov, who lives now in Sverdlovsk, and Mikhail Ivanovich Yermakov, who lives in Arsen'yev, Primorskiy Kray. Golden hands, real craftsmen!"

Potential Flight Accident Analyzed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Sep 79 p 2

[Article by Maj A. Manushkin, Transbaykal Military District: "When the Situation Became Complicated"]

[Text] The missile-carrier piloted by Maj S. Turchin went off the concrete after touchdown. Then it touched the concrete again and went off again. So-called progressive "bouncing" of the aircraft had developed. It stopped only when the flight supervisor gave the command to the pilot to release the landing deceleration parachute. There was no accident, but the conditions for it were serious, and it became the subject of a detailed discussion at the postflight briefing. Just what was the reason for the error permitted by the pilot?

The answer is simple: the pilot brought the aircraft down to the runway at increased speed, which in turn was caused by the steep glidepath descent. But members of the unit's methods council did not confine themselves to such a review of the incident at their session. In fact, they referred to the miscalculations of an experienced aviator. A more thorough analysis was needed here. As a result of it, the following was developed. When Major Turchin departed on his mission, the weather was relatively good. When he returned to the airfield, it had deteriorated substantially: a strong crosswind had started blowing. The pilot did not expect this and did not react immediately to the changed condition. Some haste appeared in his movements. In the process of descending, he was concentrating his main attention on the accuracy of his approach, lined up with the runway, but he overlooked other parameters, airspeed in particular.

Didn't Major Turchin really know the procedure for a crosswind landing? Of course he knew. But precisely the unexpected nature of the abrupt change in the weather had a substantial effect on his psychological condition. The errors were a result of this.

Are such situations a rarity? By no means. And not only in the air, but even during preparations on the ground. Such an example was brought out at the methods council session. Sr Lt V. Semernin was carrying out an ordinary "flight" with a simple mission on the simulator. He was performing confidently in accordance with the accepted standards of an excellent evaluation. Suddenly the instructor gave the introductory condition: the engine has stopped. And the pilot's actions became unrecognisable: hasty, confused. Only after prompting by the instructor

did Semernin once again find composure, self-control and collectedness in his actions. Just why did he lose his nerve in the beginning? The entire point is that the introductory condition had not been envisaged in the program for this "flight" and the officer had not been psychologically prepared for it. But now and then even experience and training do not help without this readiness.

Lt Col V. Antonets, a member of the methods council, also analyzed another type of example at this session. It has been observed, he said, that a pilot is sometimes especially collected and concentrated when he is assigned an unusual and complex mission. Prepared for a difficult flight, he also is internally prepared for the onset of any unforeseen situations. But after all, a dangerous situation may take shape in any flight, even in such a brief and, it would appear, simple flight as one in the traffic pattern. The elements are the elements. And they must be taken into account. This is why it is so important, regardless of the degree of complexity and frequency with which a drill is repeated in the air, to prepare for it on the ground, taking the possibility of any circumstances into account so that no surprise can lead to the pilot's confusion, even if only for an instant.

A number of measures to improve the psychological tempering of flight personnel were examined at that session of the methods council. In particular, special studies were written by the regiment's best methodologists. They contain recommendations for junior flight commanders and instructors on the organization and conduct of training exercises with flight personnel in actions under special circumstances and in training aviators to have the qualities of stability and determination.

During the preliminary preparation for flights, commanders now have begun to devote more attention to the crew's psychological readiness for an abrupt change in the tactical and weather conditions and for possible failures of the engine, radio, or navigation and control instruments. It is necessary to stipulate here: modern aviation equipment is perfected and reliable, and any breakdown is exceptionally rare. In the unit, however, they believe: there may be no special situation in the air, but the pilot must condition his actions until they are automatic, in order to control the aircraft faultlessly and confidently in any difficult situation. After all, flight in a supersonic missile-carrier often is conditioned by a shortage of time; consequently, any sudden complicating of the situation in such moments requires instantaneous reaction.

During "flights" in the simulator, commanders of flights strive to give their subordinates introductory stipulations more frequently. They may be very diversified. Let us assume that an aviator is approaching for a "landing." During the descent on glidepath the instructor suddenly tells him: "High-lift devices have failed." And the pilot already is counting on a landing without the use of slats and flaps. If he permits

an error as this takes place, the exercise is continued until the procedure for actions is carried out completely.

A major role in aviators' psychological preparation is assigned to the interchange of advanced experience. So officers I. Mineyev, N. Datsenko, A. Varenov and V. Baranov spoke before their colleagues. They not only told about instructive episodes from their own flying experience, but also explained why a situation had become complicated, what helped them to maintain self-control, and how to function better under the conditions which had developed.

At postflight briefings, the discussion now frequently turns to the pilot's psychological condition as the primary cause of errors which were permitted or were possible. This helps commanders to make a thorough, detailed analysis of subordinates' miscalculations in piloting technique and to more rapidly correct the shortcomings that have been identified.

Recently the regiment's aviators intercepted rapidly maneuvering radio-controlled drones and subsequently destroyed them with missiles. The very first flights demonstrated that the pilots are capable of emerging as victors in single combat with a strong enemy. Under the difficult conditions of a tactical and weather situation, the fighters of the air have displayed decisiveness and self-control and the will to win. The aviators have carried out all combat training assignments with high performance and without reasons for flying accidents.

8936

CSO: 1801

AIRBORNE BATTALION FULFILLS TASK IN NEMAN EXERCISE

Moscow KRYL'YA RODINY in Russian No 10, Oct 79 signed to press 12 Sep 79
pp 16 - 17

[Article by Lt Col I. Dynin: "A Front Line Tradition"]

[Text] In order to crush the "enemy's" resistance once and for all and to make more effective use of the successes which had been achieved, the "South" decided at the most critical moment in the battle to drop a tactical assault force. The task assigned to the assault forces was a difficult and critical one. They were faced with seizing a control point and disrupting the communications and lines of communications of the "North". The carrying out of this task was entrusted to the airborne battalion which Guards Capt L. Arshinov commands.

The selection was natural. Communist Leonid Arshinov is an officer who is energetic and tactically well versed and who is able to evaluate a situation correctly, make a bold decision and convert it into a fact. Other guardsmen: Capt A. Sotnik, a company commander; Sr Lt P. Karakovskiy, a platoon commander; Sgt A. Mamayev, a squad commander; Pvt S. Sirotkin, a machine gunner; and Pvt S. Rytikov, a grenade launcher, were a match for him. All of them are airborne men by vocation. They began to be attracted by parachute training before they were called into the army, made their first jumps in DOSAAF flying clubs, and now are persistently mastering the heroic profession of winged infantry fighting men.

Having given the preparatory instructions for preparing for the assault to his subordinates, Guards Captain Arshinov bent over a map. There were no other opportunities for the airborne men to study the terrain in the "enemy's" rear. They cannot send their commanders out on a reconnaissance and they do not receive exact information about the location of fortifications and firing points from forward observers. This is why the ability to evaluate a situation, foresee the likely movement of the opposing side's reserves, and plan one's moves using a map and far from complete aerial and troop reconnaissance information is valued so.

The preparation for a drop is also complicated. Today, subunits do not depart for the "enemy's" rear only with small arms; combat vehicles armed with guns, machineguns and ATGM systems are dropped by parachute together with them. When necessary, self-propelled artillery mounts, howitzers, antiaircraft systems, and prime movers are dropped from the air. It is necessary to deliver all this to the airfield, fasten it to platforms, load it into aircraft....

While his subordinates prepared the equipment and weapons and readied themselves for the dash into the rear, Guards Captain Arshinov firmed up coordination questions. The assault forces, which were being landed for the sake of the advancing forces, must be in close contact with the motorized riflemen, tankers and artillerymen. Considering this, the battalion commander visited the "South's" command post repeatedly.

He devoted no less attention to organizing coordination with the aviators. He became acquainted with them and studied their tasks in supporting the landing of the assault forces. Capts Ye. Filippov and M. Saprykin, military pilots 1st class, had to make a bombing and rocket strike against the "enemy's" fortified positions and firing points several minutes before the drop of the airborne men. Maj V. Strygin, the commander of a group of powerful IL-76's, and his subordinates had to deliver the winged infantry to the drop zone. A. Zarechnev had to cover the assault from the air. Guards Capt I. Vorotnikov....

They themselves and their military comrades are firstclass pilots and excellent soldiers in combat training and political training. Many of them had been trained in DOSAAF clubs and schools. For example, Capt I. Vorotnikov, when he completed school, worked in an aviation plant and at the same time studied in a flying club. Then, having completed a military school, he took his place in a combat formation of fighter bombers and became an expert in bombing strikes.

The time had come and the heavy airships, escorted by fighters, rose from the airfield. Ahead was a battle with much that was unknown; however, the mood of the paratroopers was elated. The address of the unit commander to the exercise participants had just been read to the formation: "The rating of the state of our combat readiness will depend a lot on your skilfull, decisive and bold actions, skill, discipline, organizational ability, and ability to actively conduct military operations in the 'enemy's' rear."

And already an agitator was starting an "express" message along the ranks. The airborne men carefully read the stirring lines: "The winged ship is carrying you over an area where fierce battles thundered during the years of the Great Patriotic War.... You are the inheritor of the glory of hero frontline soldiers! Your duty is to multiply our splendid military traditions". This touched everyone, especially Guards Pvt A. Kuz'min. He was flying over places where his grandfather, officer Grigoriy Lukin, had fought

and was mortally wounded during the grim war years. His grave is in the Lithuanian village of Kibartay. A. Kuz'min's parents, Yevgeniy Ivanovich and Valentina Grigor'yevna, made their way here, to Kibartay. They remembered that day for a long time. Before the flight, Aleksandr had received a Komsomol card and now, here he was, flying to a crucial task.

Those who were flying in the first aircraft had the most difficult task. They had to jump literally on the heads of the "enemy." Had his strong points been destroyed or not? Had the firing points been reliably suppressed? Had the "South's" plan been discovered? These questions did not let Guards Captain Arshinov have any peace. He was confident of only one thing: His subordinates will not falter in any situation.

The accuracy of a jump with respect to place and time will depend on the skill and experience of the military transport aircraft navigators. Their slightest mistake can cost the paratroopers dearly. However, they are confident that Captain V. Radionov, a military navigator and specialist firstclass, will not make a false step. It is not for nothing that he is called an expert in his job.

The closer the time of the drop, the greater the nervousness. Each has to his credit no less than ten jumps; however, individuals--especially officers-- have participated in such exercises as "Neman." The soldiers for the first time feel they are not simply participants in a fight but in a large battle on the ground and in the air. During these minutes, many of them gratefully remember the flying clubs where they took their first steps into the sky. Guards Pvt K. Lisovoy is grateful for this to the workers in the flying club in Kolonna, Guards Pvt A. Chernoglazov has preserved a good memory of the Ivanovskiy flying club, Guards Pfc A. Kurennoy has always remembered the instructions and advice of his instructor, Nikolay Fedorovich Tarasov, from Magnitogorsk. There, while working as a driver, he made 17 parachute jumps. Now, he is a BMD mechanic driver and has been awarded the "Excellent Soviet Army Soldier" badge.

Guards Pfc N. Alferov, the Komsomol organization secretary, transmits the next "express" message to the paratroopers: "15 minutes to the drop. Carefully watch for the signal in the aircraft and the commands of the stick commander. Separate boldly and confidently. Service in the airborne forces is the job of bold and courageous people. Attack the enemy from the air swiftly, destroy him with accurate fire and grenades."

There are more than 20 communists in the battalion which Arshinov commands. During these minutes, all of them are in the air with the fighting men. Guards Capt N. Vasil'yev is the party organization secretary. An experienced airborne soldier, he well understands the psychological condition of each one. Guards Sr Lt R. Borisov, a young company commander, is worried. He has many concerns, the tasks are complicated and his experience is still scanty. Guards Capt A. Sotnik and his subordinates are faced with seizing

the drop zone and ensuring the landing of the assault's main forces. Guardsmen Sgt P. Tarkhov and Pfc V. Fadeyev feel an especially large responsibility. They were received into the ranks of the Komsomol during a meeting directly before the assault and they wanted to justify the trust of their comrades.

All these are good and natural emotions and concerns. The people understand their responsibility and their duty and are ready to do everything necessary to ensure victory during the coming battle.

The sharp sound of the siren breaks the thoughtful mood....

It seems that everything has been done irreproachably. The quick preparation for the assault ensured the surprise of its landing, the powerful strike by the fighter bombers permitted the firing positions in the drop area to be suppressed. Nevertheless, the paratroopers had to fire from under the canopies of their parachutes. Just as soon as a chain of parachutists stretched behind the first IL-76, automatic weapons and machine guns began to speak from the ground.

It is not easy to fire while swinging in the air like a tightened strap. However, it is even more difficult to be in a trench when a hail of lead is pouring from above. One after the other, the "North's" firing points grew silent. The assault forces, having landed, did not stop firing. They gathered together in bounds in the assembly points.

"Where is the platoon commander?" Guards Sgt A. Mamayev was downright alarmed at the officer's absence.

"There, he landed behind the grove," pointed out one of the paratroopers.

There is no time to wait, it is necessary to act. Guards Sergeant Mamayev decides to take the officer's place.

"Platoon, listen to my command! There is a machine gun post in the direction of the separate tree. There is a grenade launcher in a trench near the bushes...."

It seemed that Mamayev was an experienced platoon commander -- he assumed the role so quickly and took control of the subunit into his hands so skillfully and authoritatively. Surrendering to his will, the guardsmen acted energetically and boldly, freeing the drop zone of uncoordinated "enemy" groups. Helicopter gun ships, which appeared from behind the forest, provided a lot of help to the paratroopers. They "destroyed" targets, which were uncovered during the battle, with the accurate fire of on-board rockets.

Aircraft with the equipment had already appeared over the field. The multi-canopy systems safely lowered the combat vehicles to the ground. The crews rushed to their landing sites and quickly committed them to battle.

It is difficult to list those who distinguished themselves during this stage. The fire of automatic rifleman V. Sharonin was accurate. Guards Pfc I. Vasil'yev acted dexterously near a combat vehicle. Guards Pvt S. Rytikov appeared in a timely fashion with his grenade launcher where he was needed most of all. However, the ability of the commander to evaluate the situation correctly and make the most correct decision had, as always, the decisive significance. Guards Captain Sotnik, controlling the subunit by radio, dispersed his forces efficiently and skilfully and issued commands and instructions accurately and effectively. The area, earmarked for the landing of the assault forces, was ready to receive the battalion's main forces exactly at the designated time. The security of the landing had been ensured.

Some time passed and Capt L. Arshinov's battalion began to carry out the main task. Having deployed into a line, the combat vehicles of the assault forces hurried to attack the small hill where the "North's" control point was located. A hail of fire plastered their positions.

A battle by airborne men is normally a transient one. Partly this is because it takes place in the enemy rear where there is no organized defense. However, this swiftness, this irrepressible onslaught basically reflects the nature of the winged guards' training. They learn to win even when they are dealing with superior forces. They are able to use the slightest enemy mistake, to turn weapons against him, to use a feint, to strike where they are least of all expected.

All these qualities were successfully demonstrated during the "Neman" Exercise. When the "North", having recovered from the confusion, placed a powerful antitank road block in front of Guards Capt A. Sotnik's company, the battalion commander resorted to cunning. He ordered the company to halt and exchange fire. At the same time the platoon commanded by Guards Sr Lt P. Karakovskiy, using terrain folds, completed a flanking maneuver in their combat vehicles and struck the defenders in the rear. The antitank defense was broken.

Guards Lt V. Gabriychuk, a platoon commander, also acted no less wisely. Having encountered a screen of machine gun fire in his path, he did not push his way through it. Having left one squad on the spot, he went around the machine gunners, sowed in the trenches, with the other two squads and forced them to become silent.

The task assigned to the airborne men had been completed. However, the battle did not end with this. Based on intelligence information, the "North" was bringing up reserves, trying to crush the assault forces. The senior commander ordered Guards Captain Arshinov to assume the defense and hold the designated line until the arrival of the "South's" main forces.

When evaluating the troops actions, General of the Army A. M. Mayorov, the commander of the Red Banner Baltic Military District, said:

"Modern combat is a very complicated type of combat operation. It requires colossal efforts to organize it and to concentrate the intelligence, will and skill of all who take part in it."

The landing of the tactical assault force was a confirmation of these words. The bold and thoroughly sound concept of the command was successfully realized. Coordination was carried out accurately. Commanders controlled subunits irreproachably. The mechanic drivers, the gun layer operators, crew commanders, and other fighting men acted expertly. All this was a vivid and convincing demonstration of the combat capabilities of our weapons and modern equipment and of the troops who had mastered them to perfection.

The exercise director rated the actions of the assault forces highly. Guards Capts L. Arshinov, A. Baryshnikov and N. Vasil'yev were presented valuable gifts and all battalion personnel received the thanks of the district's commander.

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AIRBORNE FOREST FIRE-FIGHTING ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED

Moscow KRYL'YA RODINY in Russian No 11, Nov 79 signed to press 15 Oct 79
p 26

[Article from Chita by A. Belousov, international category referees: "Airborne Forest Patrol Members Are Competing"]

[Text] Dozens of bases for the aircraft watch over forests are functioning in our country. Hundreds of aircraft and helicopters and thousands of paratrooper - fire-fighters and fire-fighter assault personnel, who are ready at any moment to engage in combat against fiery elements, are performing an aerial watch over large tracts of forests.

A competition for paratrooper fire-fighters and fire-fighter assault personnel was held on the flying field of the Chitinskiy DOSAAF Flying Sports Club during the days of the heated sports engagements at the starting positions of the 7th Spartakiad.

The first meeting on the aerial fire-fighting applicable type of sports helped to reveal the strongest and to exchange experience.

The participants competed in four exercises: individual and group jumps for accuracy in landing, individual and group descents from an MI-8 helicopter from heights of 20 and 30 meters using special equipment, unwinding nylon ribbons 50 meters long.

Representatives of 17 air bases -- 92 participants--entered into the struggle. The paratrooper fire-fighters made individual jumps from an altitude of 700 meters for accuracy in landing; the fire-fighter assault personnel made individual descents from MI-8 helicopters from a height of 20 meters using the special lowering equipment.

The sportsmen jumped with the "Lesnik" parachutes. Masters of Sport S. Shipitsyn (Perm') and V. Pogranichnyy (Tyumen') worked excellently, and behind them were the first category ones O. Tarkhov (Chita) and V. Igrashkin (Khabarovsk)--they landed exactly in the center of the circle. Among the fire-fighter assault personnel, Yu. Frolov (Northeast Air Base) won.

Paratrooper fire-fighters B. Nemoga, V. Minza and G. Boluchevskikh from the Yakutskaya Air Base performed successfully during the second exercise (two group jumps from a height of 700 meters into a composite target having a radius of 50 meters inside of which three other small targets each having a radius of 15 meters were located). The fire-fighter assault personnel made a group descent from a helicopter from a height of 30 meters. V. Protopopov, V. Rykov and V. Sikht from Chita took first place.

The group jumps into the combined target and the group descents from the MI-8 helicopter from a height of 30 meters in immediate proximity to the landing site of the paratrooper fire-fighters evoked special interest. They helped each other to gather the parachutes into carrying bags and deliver them to the starting line. Here, the referee handed the team captain the azimuth for moving to the simulated forest fire. Having determined the direction using a compass, the sportsmen hurried as fast as possible to find the center of the fire and begin to put it out. It was necessary to hit the target with a stream of water from the motorized pump's fire nozzle from a distance of ten meters and then saw a log in two with a gas-powered saw.... When the exercise was completed, the team captain reported this to the judges using a portable radio set.

The combined team from the Chitinskaya Air Base demonstrated high skill in this exercise. Sportsmen of Irkutsk and Tomsk took second and third place.

S. Shipitsyn (Perm'), G. Boluchevskikh (Yakutskaya Air Base), and I. Plaksin (Syktyvkar) took the three prizes in the individual championships in the all around combined tournament among the paratrooper fire-fighters. Among the fire-fighter assault personnel first place was awarded to V. Sikht (Chita), second-- to V. Moiseyev (Krasnoyarsk), and third -- to L. Usikov (Krasnoyarsk).

In the overall team examination of the all around combined tournament, the combined team of the Chitinskaya Air Base composed of paratrooper fire-fighters S. Kolotilin, V. Antonov and V. Tarkhov and fire-fighter assault personnel V. Protopopov, V. Rykov and V. Sikht won the day. The sportsmen were awarded prizes. The combined team of the Far East Air Base (Khabarovsk) was in second place and the one from the Yakutskaya Air Base was in third place.

The first inter-base competitions in the aerial fire-fighting applicable sport for paratrooper fire-fighters and fire fighter assault personnel took place in an organized manner and at a high technical and production level. The combined teams demonstrated high expertise in extinguishing forest fires using modern technical equipment.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. p. 26. Descent to a fire site.
2. p. 26. Participants in the competitions prepare to carry out an exercise -- descending from a helicopter to the designated target.

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NEW PARACHUTE JUMPING RECORD SET

Moscow KRYL'YA RODINY ir. Russian No 12, Dec 79 signed to press 15 Nov 79 p 5

[Article: "10,000 Jumps"]

[Text] Anatoliy Osipov, a 10th-class student in the Saratovskaya Secondary School No. 27 when he made his first jump, could hardly even dream that in 20 years he would be the most famous parachutist not only in our country but in the world. That first step into the sky, there in the heavens from the wing of an aging PO-2, fascinated him throughout his life and flung open the door to a strange world.

The number "10,000", let us say right out, is an impressive figure. And if one should add to it: "parachute jumps!" -- people unconversant in this matter would surely say: "Fantastic, just fantastic."

However, on a beautiful fall day -- 17 October 1979--such an unusual record was established; its author was Honored Master of Sports Anatoliy Osipov, a graduate of a USSR DOSAAF flying club.

Ten thousand jumps! What is behind this enormous figure? A. Osipov is twice supreme USSR champion, has twice earned the large silver medal of the FAI [International Aeronautical Federation] amounting to a biathlon, and is a repeated winner in various international competitions, in championships held in friendly armies and the armed forces, and in departmental meetings. His name has been entered 48 times in the table of world records for day and night jumps for accuracy in landing and in group acrobatics--forming a "star" with ten people. He is a participant in unique jumps--three and four under one canopy. He has mastered new parachutes....

All this was achieved by persistent work and daily training in the sky and on the ground. When Anatoliy had descended to the ground for the 10,000th time, he said:

"Everything that I have accomplished in the sport--it is not only due to me. A lot of thanks is due to the trainers -- Vasilii Sarayev, Pavel Storchiyenko, Yuriy Mayorov, and Vyachevslav Zharikov-- who helped me grow."

A. Osipov himself, a former student of the Saratovskaya DOSAAF Flying Club, now teaches others-- he is a senior instructor in the Syzranskiy Higher Military Aviation School for Fliers.

His students, co-workers and friends: Honored Master of Sports M. Kostina, Master of Sports International Class A. Korotkov, and Masters of Sports Ye. Korotkova, Ye. Polzikova, R. Bakhtina, S. Khrabrykh, D. Inkin, V. Luganskiy, A. Pozdyshev, and A. Podgornov, congratulated Anatoliy in free fall for his anniversary jump.

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CSO: 1801

COMMENT ON U.S. QUICK REACTION FORCES

Moscow KRYL'YA RODINY in Russian No 12, Dec 79 signed to press 15 Nov 79
p 29.

[Article by Z. Davydov: "Strike Forces Are Being Prepared for an Assault"]

[Text] Darkening the sky, combat helicopters with U. S. Army markings, squadron after squadron, plaster the peaceful fields and villages with the incinerating flames of napalm. Explosions roar. Houses and sown areas burn. The killed--women, children, old people--fall.... This is the way the American film "Apocalypse Now," which was shown at the 11th International Moscow Film Festival, begins.

This is how the ringleaders of the Pentagon also picture the operations of the "quick reaction force" now being created within the U.S. armed forces. The suggested areas for the operations of this "fire brigade" have already been named -- the eastern Mediterranean, the Near East, the Persian Gulf. Based on published reports, the "corps" will be entrusted with carrying out different missions-- from protecting lines of communications to direct aggression against the states located here "if the United States considers it necessary."

What political and strategic purposes gave birth to such an unusual military formation? Whose interests has it been called upon to serve? What military forces and equipment do they plan to include in its composition? It is possible to find the answers to such questions--in a somewhat camouflaged form -- in the words of those who speak most zealously in favor of the widespread employment of American military power far from the boundaries of their country.

Z. Brzezinski, the American president's assistant for national security affairs, quite frequently appears in the role of a theoretician on questions concerning U. S. military-political strategy. In particular, his speech to a convention of the Association for the Study of International Problems was constructed this way. Having recognized in it that today's world is "going through an era of the most extensive and intense transformations in

the history of humanity," Brzezinski at the same time fought for the preservation of Washington's role of world policeman. The United States must-- this "theoretician" maintained-- exercise its "leading role in the world" by building up its armed forces and by strengthening its "military presence."

Brzezinski preached: "The military might of the United States represents an extremely important factor in the world We must guarantee the availability of capabilities and equipment to transport our power where it is necessary and do this in the proper form and at the proper level of intensity."

The present generation well knows how great was the cost to humanity of U. S. military intervention in the affairs of other states. Based on information published in America itself, during only 20 years--from 1956 to 1975-- the United States used armed force 215 times, that is, it sent its troops, navy and air force to various regions of the planet, trying to accomplish political goals pleasing to it. It is difficult to calculate how many human lives these aggressive actions of the United States carried away; how many material valuables they destroyed; how much grief, suffering and tears they brought to the inhabitants of dozens of countries in Asia and Latin America.

In trying to confuse public opinion and to mask, if only a little, their aggressive policy, the reactionary forces of the United States are trying to seek shelter behind the smoke screen of a "military and political threat on the part of the Soviet Union." In his time, John Foster Dulles, while U. S. Secretary of State, recommended: "In order to force the country to take up the burden which is connected with the maintenance of powerful armed forces, it is necessary to create an emotional atmosphere which is related to a war time situation. It is necessary to create the notion of a threat from without." The heart-rending screams from abroad about the mythical "Soviet danger" are also directed at creating this atmosphere of military psychosis and at justifying the unrestrained build-up of military expenditures.

The voice of Senator Henry Jackson, a strong anti-Soviet individual, especially stands out in the rapacious choir of American "hawks". In one of his numerous inflammatory speeches criticizing the "spineless" White House policy in the Near East, he asserted that "Saudi Arabia, just as Iran before it, is threatened by the danger of being encircled by friends of the Soviet Union." Moreover, in his words, the real and ever intensifying danger that the Kremlin will take into its hands control over the 9.5 million barrels of oil which Saudi Arabia annually delivers to the United States and its allies, exists." The conclusion follows from this that it is necessary to strengthen military might in order to resist the "encroachments of the Russians and their friends."

The provocative falsehoods of the Beijing enemies of peace are closely linked with the bellicose verbiage of Western imperialist propagandists. In noting the fortieth anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War, the Chinese newspaper, REN MIN RIBAO, did not find anything better to print than an article predicting the start of a third world war in the mid-Eighties. The authors of this slanderous and inflammatory concoction write: "In order to seize oil and other strategic resources and establish world hegemony, the Soviet Union will blockade the Mediterranean Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Aden; it will cut the supply lines of the United States, Western Europe and Japan for oil and raw materials; it will take control of the oil in the Middle East and the mineral resources in Africa, and will undertake military operations to occupy Western Europe in a short period." Direct your attention: The regions, at which the Pentagon is aiming its "quick reaction corps", are named in the article. It is not an accidental but an ill-intentioned coincidence!

The fact that extremely reliable and well informed American figures repeat these same anti-Soviet falsehoods and militaristic appeals evokes amazement. Thus, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who knows the true state of affairs better than others, during a recent conference in Brussels on the subject "NATO During the Next 30 Years" intimidated its participants with the fact that the military might of the USSR will soon "exceed the might of the United States by three- or four-fold." And this means--the tasks of the United States and its allies in NATO are to pose an "adequate threat to the Soviet Union."

The wild hysterics of Senator Jackson, the "theoretical calculations" of Brzezinski, and the alluring statements of individual highly placed Washington figures have been called upon to substantiate and justify the deployment of "special strike intervention forces." The newspaper, NEW YORK TIMES, commenting on Brzezinski's statements cited above, emphasized that they are finding their real expression in the deployment of the "quick reaction corps" and in other similar measures.

Thus, the true mission of the "corps" is the direct carrying out of police duties. G. Hart, a member of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, speaking at the Air Force Academy, stated: "We can find ourselves in a situation where we will be forced to use armed forces to preserve the flow of oil"--in other words, to carry out direct aggression against the oil producing countries. Kler, the main collaborator of the Washington Institute for Political Research defined the purposes of the "corps" even more bluntly. He wrote: "The strike forces are intended to invade a foreign state and occupy it with the view of changing its political position." You could not say it more clearly!

What is this new formation of the U.S. armed forces, what are its composition and combat capabilities? Based on information in the foreign press, the "quick reaction corps" created by the Pentagon, numbers 110,000 personnel.

It includes about a thousand fighter aircraft and bombers, 700 transport aircraft, aircraft carriers, destroyers, tankers, and assault vessels.

The backbone of the expeditionary corps is the 82d Airborne Division. This large unit for a long time has gained for itself the unfortunate reputation of being the Pentagon's main striking punitive force. The division's personnel are noted for special brutality in the unjust wars which the American aggressors waged in Korea and Vietnam. The "green berets" swooped down on peaceful villages, annihilated all the inhabitants to a man, and left a scorched earth behind them.

Based on the organization existing in the U.S. armed forces, an airborne division numbers about 15,000 soldiers and officers. The division is saturated with firing systems, including missile and other modern types of weapons and military equipment. It is trained to assault both by parachute and by landing systems. Its organization and weapons are continually being improved. In particular, the aviation battalion has been considerably strengthened during recent years. It now includes assault transport helicopters and more than 30 helicopter gun ships having antitank guided missiles along with other weapons.

Special attention is being paid to staffing the division with selected "politically trustworthy" volunteers and to the military, physical, moral, and psychological training of the personnel. They are implanting a cult of violence in the division, they are rearing professional killers ready to carry out the aggressive plans of American imperialism at any cost and with any means.

The Pentagon is now not engaged only in the formation of a "quick reaction" force". It is already developing "emergency plans" for using it in specific directions. In the NEW YORK TIMES, the well known American reviewer, D. Middleton, depicts in an extremely detailed manner a sample plan for operations to seize the oil sources in the areas of North Africa, Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf. First, the 82d Airborne Division will be transported from the Fort Bragg military base (the main base of the 18th Airborne Corps) on C-5A and C-141 aircraft to the area where an "emergency situation" has arisen. Then, depending on the situation some ground, air or naval units will be sent to reinforce the paratroopers.

Middleton writes: "The air force is convinced that with aerial refuelling it is capable of moving to the designated area a sufficient number of fighter squadrons in order to defend the infantry being transported in aircraft. For many years, the air forces have been improving the program under the name 'uninhabited base', providing for the aerial delivery of fuel, water and equipment to any available airfield."

In the militaristic circles of Washington, voices are already sounding out that one "quick reaction corps" is not enough, that the "defense of American

interests" can require more forces than the U. S. government is planning. The Pentagon ringleaders are calming the "hawks", recalling that there is still a body of marines (192,000 personnel, 364 combat aircraft and 438 helicopters), the 101st Air Mobile Division with tactical aviation attached to it, carrier forces (13 carriers with 800 aircraft on board), and many others which can reinforce the "strike intervention force" contingent.

The formation and training of these forces is another corroboration of the "strategic conceptions" of U. S. ruling circles which have the goal of strengthening the positions of American imperialism in key areas of the world.

Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, gave a comprehensive definition of the essence of the newly-made "quick reaction corps" when he evaluated it as a purely imperialist undertaking. Leonid Il'ich pointed out: "State wisdom is not to 'react quickly' with a machine gun and rifle; the main thing is to react correctly considering the objective realities of today's world and to look for a peaceful solution to problems."

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READERS' USE OF JOURNAL MATERIAL NOTED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 9, Sep 79 signed to press
23 Aug 79 p 6

[Article: "On the Trail of ZNAMENOSETS Articles"]

[Text] A report entitled "Into Combat from the Air" published in ZNAMENOSETS No 1, 1979 (by Sergeant V. Goryunov) discussed the practical experience accumulated on the part of officer V. Rak's subunit (podrazdeleniye) in landing a tactical airborne assault force without the transport helicopters themselves actually landing. The rotary-wing craft move at low speed as they hover over the landing area. This has been of great advantage in the successful landing of the motorized-rifle subunit, whose troops jump out from small heights onto their designated landing area. This method of landing possesses a number of advantages.

While this method of landing is not new, it is nevertheless widely employed by our armed forces. The material published in the journal has attracted the attention of NCO readers with its presentation in concrete terms of the squad leader's practical experience in employing this method of landing.

As reported to us by Colonel M. Mordas, personnel of the subunit led by officer A. Vinogradov during a recent exercise successfully accomplished their combat training mission involving a tactical airborne assault landing operation. Without ceasing their fire, the transport helicopters hovered over the landing area but did not touch down. The motorized-rifle troops quickly jumped out from a height of 2.5-3 meters. They then deployed in a skirmish line and attacked the "enemy" taking advantage of natural terrain features.

In the course of their practical activities, armed forces rationalizers and inventors often make use of material published in the periodical press. Of help to them in this regard has been the journal ZNAMENOSETS, which in its feature entitled "From the Exhibition Into Armed Forces Employment" discusses displays at

the VDNKh SSSR /Exhibition of Achievements of the Economy of the USSR/ recommended for adoption on a widespread basis.

As Lieutenant Colonel-Engineer N. Zaytsev from the Red Banner Carpathian Military District reports to the editors, in developing his stand for testing onboard radioelectronic flight equipment, Warrant Officer M. Petrovich, an industrious innovator, utilized the instrument described in No 4 of the journal for 1978, which facilitates operational testing of the MS-61B tape recorder.

Private O. Teplyakov, a member of the group of creative personnel headed by officer M. Latyk, has developed a piece of equipment for cutting male threads, which was the subject of an item in the journal of February of this year. This has made it possible to increase substantially the efficiency of lathe working operations.

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MOTORIZED INFANTRY DESERT-STEPPE TRAINING DESCRIBED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 9, Sep 79 signed to press
23 Aug 79 pp 8-9

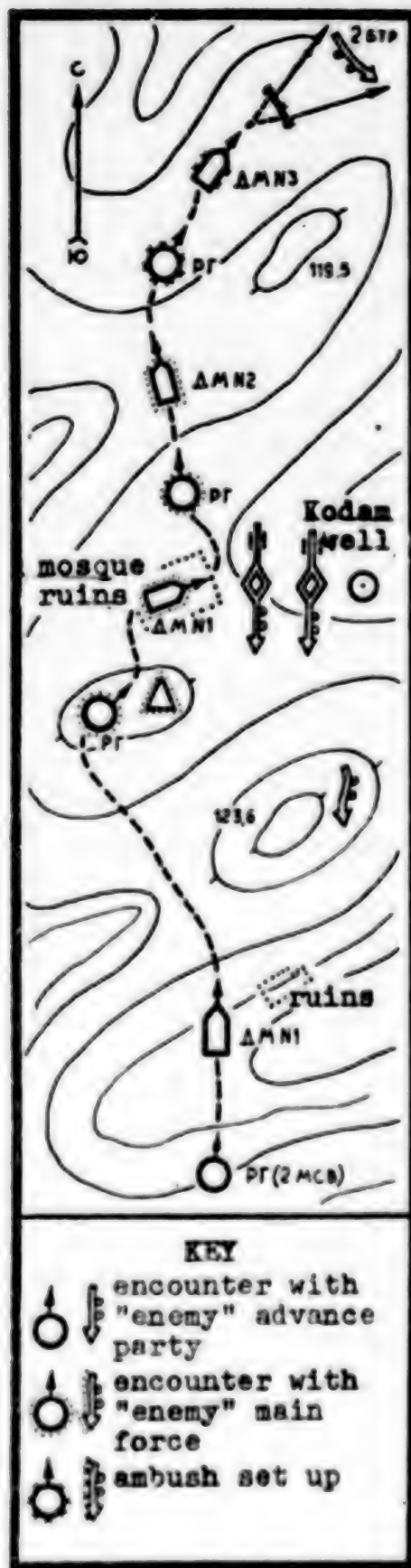
[Article by Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Petrov: "Reconnaissance in Desert-Steppe Terrain, Effectiveness and Quality in Field Training"]

[Text] Combat operations conducted in desert-steppe terrain have their own special character. The exhausting daytime heat and the the rather low nighttime temperatures, the blinding sun, the frequent winds and sand storms, the great amounts of dust in the air accompanying column movements, the shortage of water--all these things may have a negative impact on the condition of personnel and equipment.

Taking as our example the regimental tactical exercise participating in which was the motorized-rifle platoon led by Warrant Officer V. Popov, we will give consideration to the specific characteristics of the operations involved in organizing and conducting reconnaissance in desert-steppe terrain.

At 0715 the platoon leader arrived at regimental headquarters and received his mission assignment to conduct a reconnaissance operation. He was informed that, according to information from our aviation, two infantry columns with tanks and artillery had been spotted at 0600 along a line from the well on Hill 133.6 (80 km north of Hill 119.5 but not shown on the diagram). Moving from out of the depth of his territory, the "enemy" was employing his aviation and diversionary-reconnaissance groups.

Cooperating with neighboring formations on the right and on the left (the warrant officer was provided with all necessary information concerning them), the regiment was to begin advancing along its assigned route at 1000. The motorized-rifle platoon led by Warrant Officer Popov was ordered to operate as a reconnaissance group and advance in the direction ruins-Hill 123.6-Kodam well-Hill 119.5, reconnoitering "enemy" personnel, fire weapons, reserves and command posts. Special attention was to be devoted to an effort to identify offensive nuclear weapons.



After arriving at a thorough understanding of his mission and developing an estimate of the situation, the platoon leader concluded that "enemy" subunits could probably be encountered along the line Kodam well-mosque ruins and their security units in the area of Hill 123.6. In making his decision, Warrant Officer Popov devoted special attention to the problem of concealing his movements over the terrain to be covered in the execution of the mission.

Under the supervision of their squad leaders, his men in the meantime had been engaged in preparing their vehicles and weapons. Special attention was given to checking filters and the seals around the various hatches and openings. Auxiliary fuel and coolant reservoirs were mounted on the vehicles to increase their operational range.

A check was also made to insure that the vehicles had been provided with their camouflage netting and that the NCOs and troops had on their camouflage suits. These motorized-rifle personnel were also issued protective sunglasses for use against the blinding rays of the sun; padded gauze wrapping kits for protection in the case of sand storms were provided for all personnel. The required supply of drinking water was insured. Squad leaders recalled for their men how to identify snakes, scorpions, arachnids and other poisonous reptiles and insects and how, in case of a bite or sting to render first aid to themselves or to a comrade....

The platoon leader issued his operation orders in the presence of all personnel. After providing them with information on the "enemy" and describing the platoon's mission, he designated the patrol vehicles: DM [patrol vehicle] No 1 - the first squad led by Sergeant V. Abramov; DM No 2 - the second squad led by Sergeant A. Bogdanov. The warrant officer designated the third squad led by Sergeant V. Astakhov as a reserve.

After making sure that these reconnaissance personnel had a proper understanding of their mission and had thoroughly familiarized themselves with the procedures to be employed in accomplishing it, Warrant Officer Popov recalled to them the unique characteristics of operations conducted in desert-steppe terrain and the fact that while the level terrain and sparse vegetation facilitate observation of the enemy, they at the same time make it more difficult to conceal reconnaissance subunits. The thick trailing clouds of sand and dust raised by the movement of the vehicles cause serious problems as revealing signs and make it possible not only to spot a reconnaissance subunit, but to follow its movements as well. The platoon leader focused the attention of his men on the fact that in executing their mission they should take the greatest possible advantage of each irregularity and depression in the terrain and avoid level and open terrain as much as possible. In moving they should try to make use of areas affording grassy or bushy cover.

At 0800 the reconnaissance group passed its starting point, the ruins. Moving into operation in the forward position in DM No. 1 was the first squad. The men studied the terrain and ground features as they moved, while at the same time conducting air observations.

We know that in desert-steppe terrain observation plays a much greater role than it does, for example, in mountainous or wooded areas and under other conditions of limited visibility. The level terrain makes it possible to spot objects a considerable distance away. The most favorable conditions under which to make observations prevail on mornings with calm, clear weather before the sun has warmed the earth.

On this occasion they spotted the "enemy" column when it was still approximately 20 km away. Judging by the size of the curtain of dust, Warrant Officer Popov estimated that it was a mounted unit as large as an infantry company. After reporting the appearance of the "enemy," he continued his reconnaissance. But these reconnaissance personnel had already begun now to adopt different procedures in executing their mission. Carefully conforming as nearly as possible to the terrain, the platoon moved onto a course off to the side of the main route, moving by bounds from one position of cover to the next. The vehicles crossed

open areas at maximum speed, choosing directions in which they would raise less dust. Before moving to a new position, the reconnaissance men carefully surveyed the terrain ahead of them. Surveillance of the "enemy," of course, was not broken off for a minute.

The approaching column proved to be an advance party. Visible behind it were two other clouds of dust, each several kilometers long. The problem was to ascertain the "enemy's" grouping, his personnel and his probable plan of operation. It is not necessary to move in close to the enemy to obtain this information in desert-steppe terrain. It is enough to select a site suitable from which to conduct observations.

This is what Warrant Officer Popov did. When the "enemy" moved into view, the reconnaissance group had already taken up a position behind a cone-shaped hill, the leader himself and three men on top of the hill. Patrol vehicle No. 1 under the command of Sergeant Abramov was positioned out in a forward location and concealed in some ruins. The platoon leader maintained communications with his senior commander by radio.

Both "enemy" columns were now clearly visible. Both were composed of up to an infantry battalion with a tank company and up to an artillery battalion. After reporting this information, the warrant officer was ordered to advance and watch for the approach of other support columns and reserves.

Now operating in patrol vehicle No. 2 was the second squad led by Sergeant Bogdanov. DM No. 2 advanced at a shorter distance from the group than patrol vehicle No. 1. The platoon leader was trying to keep his men within only a short distance so that they might be able to reach the patrol vehicle for assistance in case they made contact with the "enemy."

The sun was now already rather high in the sky by this time. The ground was warming up and it had become considerably more difficult to conduct observations since the rippling movements of the air and the refraction of the sun's rays worsened visibility. As the first mirages were observed, the forms and outlines of various objects began to be distorted; the conditions were clearly right for the appearance of what are referred to as optical illusions. But they did not cause Warrant Officer Popov any difficulty: his men had developed their skills in observation under such conditions so highly that they could still determine distances to targets accurately and locate the position of objects they had observed on a map with great precision. It is true, though, that in order to maintain their sharpness of perception, observers were changed more frequently than usual.

We know that the primary mission of a reconnaissance group is to observe the enemy and report to its commander on its observations. It may, however, occur that after coming under attack by our aviation, for example, individual launchers, guns or staff cars may be forced quickly to change their locations, take up new positions, to seek cover and so on. At this point, favorable conditions are created for destroying the enemy and capturing prisoners and documents.

Now operating as a patrol vehicle (DM No. 3), the third squad in our example spotted two armored personnel carriers advancing directly toward its position. Other "enemy" subunits nearby were not overlooked and after developing an estimate of the situation the warrant officer decided to set up an ambush. Up ahead was a slight depression, and the reconnaissance men took advantage of it. Quickly disposing his vehicles, the platoon leader ordered them covered with their camouflage nets. The troops took up positions nearby. Skillful utilization of the terrain and his organizational equipment made it possible for the platoon leader to deploy his squads such that the "enemy" spotted them only after having advanced to within 60-50 meters.

At this point the third squad performed in an outstanding manner. Since it was closer to the "enemy" than the others, these reconnaissance men destroyed both armored personnel carriers with RPG [antitank rocket launcher] fire and then took prisoners.

The organization of an ambush under these conditions is an extraordinarily difficult business. The enemy is advancing rapidly in your direction; you are on open terrain; and every minute, every second is precious.... A great deal depends on the leader in circumstances like this, on his ability to form a situation estimate quickly, to arrive at the proper decisions taking intelligent risks and to inform his men of his decisions within a short period of time. Warrant Officer Popov acted quickly and competently. This had a beneficial effect on his men as well; they, too, acted quickly, carefully and efficiently.

We should also point out that these reconnaissance men were operating in open terrain exposed to the burning rays of the sun; the NCOs and men, however, remained in high spirits, showing no apparent signs of fatigue or heat exhaustion and none experiencing any sharp thirst. The high degree of physical conditioning these reconnaissance men demonstrated in the course of their exercise came as a result of continuous, purposeful training both in the conduct of operations in open terrain in burning heat and in the practice of water discipline.

...After identifying the composition of the "enemy's" forces and his operational plans and reporting this information upon command, the reconnaissance group was ordered to join up with the

regimental forces completing their movement. Warrant Officer Popov organized the withdrawal of his reconnaissance group from action and arrived at the designated time at the place indicated by the regimental chief of staff. An exercise critique was held at this point. The senior commander gave a high rating to the operation carried out by Warrant Officer Popov's platoon.

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READERS' SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING TRAINING EVALUATED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 9, Sep 79 signed to press
23 Aug 79 pp 10-11

[Article by Colonel General M. Khomulo, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Ground Forces for Combat Training: "For the Action, For Victory"]

[Text] ZNAMENOSETS published in its December (1978) issue an article by Warrant Officer N. Ostrovskiy entitled "Methods--the Art of Teaching," which raised questions concerning the organization of combat and political training and the effort to achieve greater effectiveness and improved quality in the training process and in the methodological skills of training and instructional personnel. It criticized the idea that military pedagogy was a science to be studied by officers alone. The editors then turned to the readers with the request to share their ideas and discuss their own experience, ways to improve the results to be obtained from each hour and minute of training and the utilization of instructional equipment.

Our readers have participated actively in the discussion of the questions which were raised; they expressed their ideas, shared practical experience in training and indoctrinating personnel and offered a number of specific suggestions directed toward further improving the quality and enhancing the effectiveness of the combat training given all armed forces personnel. We received more than 50 of these letters. We published the most interesting among selections of responses included in eight of this year's issues.

Many of the matters which have been brought up, of course, require more thorough and comprehensive consideration. The editors therefore plan in the future to publish articles describing the methodological knowledge and skills which have been developed by our leading army and navy warrant officers.

In the article below, Colonel General M. Khomulo, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Ground Forces for Combat Training, provides a summing up of the discussion of the article "Methods--the Art of Teaching" which has taken place on the pages of this journal.

As we all know, widespread adoption of results achieved by scientific and technical progress in the area of military development has led to the improved equipment, to the increased power available per unit and to the enhanced combat capability of our ground and naval forces; to the development of entire weapon systems of increased complexity; to a need to modify the very methods of conducting combat operations and to improved subunit (podrazdeleniye) structure, command and control. All these developments have in turn exerted a decisive impact on the content of the basic principles, methods and forms of training and indoctrinating military personnel. The matter of enhancing the effectiveness and quality of combat and political training has now become one critical as never before. All conditions necessary for this development have been created in our armed forces.

Our country's Armed Forces have available an officer corps capable of training and indoctrinating personnel and exercising command and control of subunits, units (chast') and naval vessels on a scientific basis and which has mastered all the forms and methods of conducting present-day military operations.

Army and navy warrant officers are becoming our officers' military assistants. Warrant Officer N. Ostrovsky's article entitled "Methods--the Art of Teaching," which was made the subject of discussion among a broad circle of readers, properly emphasizes the fact that as military cadres and experts in their fields, warrant officers are doubly useful and valuable if they provide a lead and guide for newer specialists and if they generously share with them their accumulated practical experience. This category of command and technical cadres has already been tasked with conducting exercises and training in a number of disciplines. It would therefore be a mistake to assume that military pedagogy and teaching methods were sciences with which officers alone should concern themselves. Warrant officers, to the contrary, need with all possible persistence and sense of urgency

to develop teaching and indoctrinating capabilities, while team, crew and platoon leaders need to master the requisite command and leadership skills. The modern teaching method represents a concentration of practical experience, a system comprised of the most suitable and effective techniques of instructing personnel and subunits taken as a whole for achieving the best results with the least expenditure of time, material and effort. Hence the task we have before us of mastering to perfection the entire arsenal of methods, procedures and techniques of conducting military training and indoctrination.

Journal readers point with every justification to the greatest potential contained within the new technical means of instruction--trainers, simulators, the systems of equipment in operation in the training areas, practice and firing ranges, the motion-picture and television equipment and much else.

Improving the quality of combat and political training may remain within the realm of good intentions where cadres rely solely on old forms and methods of training and indoctrinating personnel, where they rest content with slackened efforts, indulge in oversimplifications and adhere to unimaginative routine. In his observations entitled "With a View Toward the New," Guards Warrant Officer Yu. Turkin quite rightly points out that programmed instruction, which has made its appearance with pedagogy's employment of rational principles and means of control of complex systems developed on the basis of cybernetics, logic, mathematics and computer hardware, is finding practical application in the training of our specialists.

While freely and boldly utilizing the latest in training equipment and material resources, we can under no circumstances ignore the methods and techniques of training specialists which have become what we may refer to as classical. These include oral presentation, model demonstration, exercise, test questioning.... Senior Lieutenant A. Shokurov, a platoon leader and instructor in a school for warrant officers, quite rightly points to the need for every warrant officer and NCO to become proficient in the authoritative language of leadership and command. As a rule, what we say is a reflection of what we think, incompleteness and lack of organization in the one an indication of shallowness and lack of discipline in the other. That is why it should be second nature for leaders of training and instruction to be able to think logically and to know commands, signals and the meaning of military terminology from memory.

Warrant Officer I. Maksimets is, of course, also correct in maintaining that properly given commands and instructions and model methods demonstrations contribute to successfully meeting standard norm requirements within the shortest possible periods of time

The conclusion then suggests itself that no visual training aids, no technical instructional means whatsoever, regardless of how sophisticated they may be, can help instructional personnel if they themselves are only poorly trained, if they rest content with continuing on with their old mental baggage or if they are inexperienced or insufficiently prepared. How can we improve our mastery of methodological skills? The answer is common knowledge--briefings on topics in methods and supervision of new instructors on the part of the best methods specialists among our officer personnel. It would also include meetings and assemblies devoted to problems in methods and a system of leadership, command and other specialized training.

Of great benefit to recent graduates of warrant officer schools is to then undergo training in groups led by officers. Contributing to the development of command and leadership skills, the comprehensive and detailed critiques and the intensive training sessions sharpen skills in training and indoctrinating subordinates. But the full range of knowledge, skills and abilities which a warrant officer's duty responsibilities will require of him cannot be acquired over only a short period of time. He must round out and supplement his formal training by his own independent efforts as well. There is a comprehensive discussion of this point in the article by Colonel General V. Goncharov, First Deputy Chief of the Main Personnel Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of the USSR entitled "At A New Stage," which was published in the 18 Apr 1979 issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

Commanders, their staffs, political organs and party and Komsomol organizations instill in personnel a love for the military profession and develop in them a desire for knowledge, to expand their political horizons and to improve methodological skills. To have every warrant officer complete a secondary-level specialized military education so that they could then all perform their official duties on a higher professional level would be one of the principal means of raising the skill levels of this category of military cadres and of enhancing their authority and their role in training and indoctrinating personnel and in maintaining their units and vessels at a high level of combat readiness.

The search for means further to improve methods and techniques is inseparable from the search for new potential, hidden resources, hitherto untapped means of enhancing the effectiveness of the training process, of improving the very structuring of exercises and training and of achieving a fuller utilization of training time. I think we should favor the suggestions considered feasible which have been offered in letters from officers and warrant officers:

--consolidate and condense the time spent repeating material already covered. Technical means of objective evaluation should be

utilized whenever possible to test a student's knowledge. This will make it possible to devote more time to the presentation of new material and the practical execution of the sequence of exercises;

--check the condition and readiness of simulators, visual training aids and other training area equipment and facilities the day before the training is to be conducted. Cadres responsible for conducting the instruction, training or exercise should see personally to the good order and proper operation of the various pieces of training equipment, the mock-ups, models and so forth;

--avoid any poorly thought out changes in group training schedules during the course of the training itself. Develop rational plans for moving trainees through the various phases of weapon-model, exercise-field and other training-area activities.

In summarizing the discussion which has been held on the article "Methods--the Art of Teaching," we cannot but note that running like a red thread through the lines contained in the responses has been a concern for the effective utilization of every hour and minute of training ("Everyone! Join the Search!" by Warrant Officer A. Rylko, "Share Your Experiences" by Warrant Officer N. Kosobuko, "Testing the Ocean" by Warrant Officer R. Skakun, "Taking a Comprehensive Approach" by Warrant Officer M. Golubev and many others). Cadres in charge of instruction, training or an exercise must give thorough consideration to the matters of what it is they plan to accomplish in the time allotted, what the trainees are to do, what knowledge they will acquire, what new they will gain, what skills they will learn. So as not to miscalculate, the basic criterion should be kept in view at all times: the ability to wage war employing the most up-to-date means and methods available. To meet the requirements imposed by this criterion means to create conditions approximating as nearly as possible those of actual combat with a specific adversary--one treacherous, perfidious, resourceful and technically well-equipped.

The unique characteristics of a specific theater of military operations should always be taken into consideration. To contribute to the development of teamwork and coordination in the execution of an operation, we should insure the men's understanding of their "own movement" and on this basis their ability to coordinate their own efforts with those of their comrades, the full team, the entire crew.

Warrant Officer N. Ostrovskiy's article "Methods--the Art of Teaching" quite properly points out that we have good people to teach, good people to do the teaching and good training equipment

and material resources which, generally speaking, measure up to the requirements imposed upon them. Under the direction of experienced methods specialists, armed forces inventors and rationalizers are developing new equipment and models of "teaching" equipment and improving simulators, models and display stands. But the key question is our ability to achieve the greatest efficiency in the utilization of our training facilities and resources.

There are still, unfortunately, instances of our new instructors losing sight of the importance of proper sequencing and continuity in the training of personnel. We have first to insure a state of good individual training and readiness and then move ahead to achieve the requisite operational coordination, synchronization and unity. For as a rule, the weapons our troops employ are weapons of group operation. Instructional personnel should therefore strive to their utmost to insure the development of collective skills and capabilities.

By developing well-knit, well-coordinated military units, relying on competition leaders in the course of instruction and in doing so taking into consideration the unique personal characteristics of each of their subordinates, commanders, instruction, training and exercise cadres, and party and Komsomol activists help our younger military personnel find the shortest possible path to the achievement of mastery of military skills and the assimilation of accumulated experience, help them develop their tactical thinking, draw them into participation in technically creative activities and contribute to the development of those qualities necessary for the successful performance of their military duties. Methods specialists and practical training leaders are also of tangible beneficial effect in developing in our younger personnel a faith in the reliability of their weapons and equipment and confidence in its dependable operation.

The complexity of our new weapons and the collective nature of their employment pose critically and urgently as never before the problems of psychological conditioning and the compatibility between members of crews, teams and small subunits. Conditions indispensable for the establishment of positive relationships within small units and the achievement of good coordination between the members of these units are a clear, precise explanation of the missions assigned a crew or a team; the creation of a spirit of trust and mutual comradely esteem; the maintenance and cultivation of good traditions; well-thought-out plans for activities and training exercises designed to develop and improve skills and for joint, integrated operations; and the selection of specialists taking into consideration their characteristic attributes and the state of their morale.

The matters of the development of collective skills and capabilities and the effort to achieve interchangeability between team and crew personnel were unfortunately not given consideration in the course of the discussion of problems in methods taking place in the pages of the journal. Participants in this important and useful conversation also dealt only superficially with experience accumulated in the organization of competition within military units. These matters evidently require further consideration.

Warrant Officer N. Ostrovskiy's statement on the matter of the unity of combat training and military indoctrination is entirely correct. In the course of their instruction, training, exercises, naval cruises and practice firing, personnel not only develop a knowledge of the algebra of warfare, but such qualities as bravery, boldness and a will to win. They form a positive outlook on life; they develop their self-assurance and those other valuable qualities required for the successful conduct of military operations under present-day conditions. I think we need to come back to such important matters as these as well. And that not once only. This is the obligation imposed by the decree of the CPSU Central Committee on "Further Improving Ideological and Political Indoctrination Work," which contains lines addressed directly to all those called upon to provide training and indoctrination for Soviet military personnel. To further by making their own contributions to the glorious traditions of our armed forces, service in which provides a remarkable schooling for the development of labor and military skills, moral purity and courage and patriotism and comradeship,--this is the honored task of commanders and leaders of all ranks, and these include our army and navy warrant officers.

I should point out in conclusion that, in our view, the discussion of Warrant Officer N. Ostrovskiy's article, "Methods--the Art of Teaching," has been a fruitful one. Our cadres responsible for the conduct of instruction, training and exercises dispose of a continuously expanding arsenal of available modes and methods. An effort is under way within units and on board ships to increase the effectiveness and improve the quality of the training process. The up-to-date technical means of training which are now being extensively utilized are making it possible to make the daily combat training routine approach as nearly as possible the actual conditions characteristic of warfare under present-day conditions. I must emphasize that preference should be given to precisely those methods which more than any others will contribute to the achievement of our goal--the training and preparation of our troops for the conduct of military operations and for the achievement of absolute victory over any adversary.

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SUBMARINE TORPEDO CREW TRAINING DESCRIBED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 9, Sep 79 signed to press
23 Aug 79 p 25

[Article by Warrant Officer A. Ivanov, master of combat skills:
"Required for Operations at Sea, From Our Military Correspondent
With the Red Banner Pacific Ocean Fleet"]

[Text] A group of nonstaff military correspondents on duty with the Red Banner Pacific Ocean Fleet comprised of Warrant Officers A. Ivanov, V. Genze and V. Mel'nik has begun its work for ZNAMENOSETS. Today we are publishing a report from the group's leader, Warrant Officer Anatoliy Nikolayevich Ivanov, Master of Combat Skills.

A ship combat crew among whose members was Petty Officer 2d Class V. Astaykin has taken first place in torpedo firing competitions. Following the conclusion of the competitions the submarine completed its extended oceangoing cruise. As it approached its base it was met by a commission of authorities who conducted a thorough investigation of the combat readiness of both personnel and equipment. Petty Officer 2d Class Astaykin at that time observed a slight abnormality in the operation of one of the units of equipment. The petty officer did not lose his head. Quickly "scanning" mentally every terminal and assembly in the electrical circuit, he was able to determine precisely the point at which the system was malfunctioning and eliminate the problem. It had not been necessary to call in specialists from the base.

Other torpedo electricians also performed effectively during the cruise; these included Petty Officers 2d Class S. Mosentsev and A. Shestakov. We should point out at the same time that these submarine crew members have not had the benefit of all that great a length of time in service. They have nevertheless already received a good specialized training to include repairs. They have now demonstrated in practice that they are capable not simply of turning knobs, but also of dismantling a piece of equipment, thoroughly analyzing it and understanding the principles of its operation.

When we analyze the factors involved in a torpedo electrician's success, we cannot but see that playing an important role in the training of new specialists in addition to the good organization of specialty training and exercises directly on board a submarine has been our training center's torpedo practice firing room. Available here to assist in providing effective instruction of naval personnel is a variety of visual training aids: operational electric circuits, charts, illustrations and photographs. It would appear that everything had been provided for. But it has sometimes occurred that in studying and analyzing a circuit in a generally sure and competent manner, an operator has nevertheless been unable to remedy even the slightest malfunction. There had apparently been a gap between theoretical knowledge and practical equipment-operating skills.

So our skilled and innovative types set themselves to thinking. We began constructing display stands utilizing full-scale cut-away presentations of individual assemblies and electrical components. Instruction began to be more effective. But it soon became clear that this alone was not fully solving the most basic problem--the quickest and best possible training and development of shipboard specialists. What were required were training aids which would afford our future torpedo electricians an opportunity to develop a thorough and comprehensive understanding of both the principles underlying the operation of these components and assemblies and the physical nature of the processes which were taking place.

Graphic visual presentation is one of the key principles underlying the instruction of our personnel. We therefore decided to develop stands providing an integrated step-by-step display. On these stands we mounted several dozen different electric machines and the necessary number of indicator lights, the illumination of which makes it possible to follow the dynamics involved in the operation of all electrical circuits.

The first instruction given using the new stands showed that our work had been of benefit. Young seamen now are quickly developing their grasp of the principles underlying the operation of the electrical circuit of any piece of equipment. We have also achieved significant savings in time since trainees now learn more in the course of one period of instruction than they formerly did in two or three. The time saved is now being used to study in greater depth the more difficult areas of the training program.

These operational display stands have made it possible not only to improve the quality of the specialized training provided our torpedo electricians, but also to allow them to develop their skills in locating and remedying malfunctions, that is, to improve their training in making repairs. As we know, this is

considerably more difficult to accomplish on operating ship-board equipment. More than half the time now spent in the training room is devoted to practical training and exercises with torpedo electricians. This training is conducted under conditions approaching as nearly as possible those of a combat situation.

So now came the next group of submarine crew members into the training room. The command was given: "Practice alert! Torpedo attack!"

The torpedo electricians quickly take up their stations. The small units of firing instruments snap and click; the miniature motors in the firing systems chatter away. And then alarming reports suddenly begin to come in from the battle stations:

"The contact-follow-up timing circuit is not functioning!"

"The control table problem is not being solved!"

"The timing interval in the torpedo firing-circuit line is not functioning!"

The instructor remained calm. He himself had programmed in all these "not functionings" and was now simply observing how the trainees would perform.

The knowledge acquired from working with the display stands would now be useful. So at this point Petty Officer 2d Class Mosentsev disassembles a mechanism. He has already developed a firm grasp of the proper sequence to follow in trying to locate a malfunction. He first checks the fuses located on the panel. Then he follows the circuit further. Locating the malfunction in the micromotor, he quickly eliminates the difficulty. The petty officer makes his report: "Malfunction eliminated." Glancing at his stopwatch, the instructor was pleased--the standard norm requirement had been exceeded.

Mosentsev has become an outstanding specialist. But I recall how flustered he became during his first periods of instruction at the sight of all that computing equipment. It seemed to the seaman that it would be practically impossible to comprehend all that, and into his mind there crept the thought "Wouldn't it be better if I tried to get a shore-based assignment?". And then he came for a training session with one of the display stands. The lights indicating the flow of the electric current started to flash off and on, and he began to develop a clearer understanding of the entire circuit. During the following period of instruction he was able to grasp the nature of the phenomenon of the synchronization of the circuit by the selsyns. His fear and

timidity disappeared, and the seaman began to demonstrate a lively interest. And as he developed his understanding of one phenomenon after another, one circuit after another, the idea of requesting a transfer to a shore-based assignment began to appear to him to be quite foolish. He became a specialist 2d class in his first year of service.

The communist Petty Officer 2d Class Mosentsev is now numbered among the best torpedo electricians in the force (soyedineniye). He has behind him more than one outstanding torpedo firing and more than any one thousand miles of ocean cruises. But before his submarine puts out to sea, the petty officer always comes to our training room to train again and again.

His comrades Petty Officers 2d Class A. Shestakov and V. Astaykin have also become experienced specialists. A real competition to locate equipment malfunctions always shapes up here in the torpedo practice firing room. There is no need to point out what a beneficial impact this has had on equipment operation while the submarine is at sea. In the meantime our skilled innovators continue their improvements on the training facility.

Petty Officer 2d Class V. Zherdev, for example, played an active role in constructing and setting up a stand we have named "The Examiner." This has become an indispensable aid in conducting test questioning during periods of instruction, but especially in giving torpedo electricians their rating examinations. The electronic "Examiner's" several dozen questions encompass in brief form many sections of the training program. And what is more, instruction conducted with the "Examiner" is livelier than it would be with these questions and answers given orally.

Training conducted in shore-based facilities yields undoubted economic benefits: they make it possible for us to avoid the necessity of "racing" costly military equipment for training purposes. It is after all required for operations at sea.

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